

Kremlin will set political prisoners free

Kohl says all will be out by end of year

● The Soviet Union is to release all those regarded by the West as political prisoners, Chancellor Kohl said.
● Speaking after his Moscow summit with President Gorbachev, he said they would be free by the end of the year.
● Herr Kohl also gave Bonn's backing to an international human rights conference to be held in Moscow in 1991.
● Whitehall said the Kremlin's undertaking vindicated the West's firm line on human rights in the Soviet Union.

By Our Foreign Staff

Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Chancellor Kohl revealed the release after his first summit with President Gorbachev, which both sides have described as a "turning point" in relations. "The ice has broken," Herr Kohl said, quoting the Soviet leader.

Moscow's undertaking to release all political prisoners.

Stockholm (AP)—Sweden has begun rejecting applications for asylum from Soviet citizens, saying they no longer qualify as political refugees in view of Mr Gorbachev's reform programme. In the past, the Swedish authorities routinely granted Soviet defectors the right to asylum. But Mr Mikael Brannan, an Immigration Board official, said the policy was reassessed in the spring.

Leading article, page 17

Gift from the Queen to Oxford

By Douglas Brown, Education Reporter

The Campaign for Oxford, the biggest fund raising initiative mounted by a British university, was launched yesterday with a "very generous" donation from the Queen.

Buckingham Palace and the university refused to say how much the Queen had given to the appeal, intended to raise £220 million in five years, but Dr Henry Drucker, the campaign director, said: "We are very grateful to the Queen for giving a lead to her subjects."

Sir Patrick Neill, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, said £220 million would "safeguard the independence of Oxford and ensure that it maintains and enhances its position as a university of world renown". He said £51 million had been raised so far. Picture, page 3

Hurd accused over Sinn Fein
Confusion surrounded the Government's broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein last night in spite of attempts by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to clarify its precise remit.

Television and radio chiefs remain worried and Unionist politicians accused Mr Hurd of giving in to pressure from broadcasters and providing Sinn Fein with an opportunity to appear legitimate.

Media anger, page 2
Leading article, page 17

Law results
The Law Society Final Examination results for summer 1988 will be published tomorrow. The Times will be available at Victoria Station tonight from 9.30pm onwards.

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Charity re-run for the Chariots race



Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe were put on their marks yesterday by Great Ormond Street Hospital patient Carrie Wehman, aged eight, above, before a re-run of the race round the Great Court of Trinity College, Cambridge from the film Chariots of Fire.

Moore acts on benefits after leaked letter row

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

Mr John Moore will today launch his counter-attack in the controversy over child benefit against the background of embarrassing new disclosures about the way the Government has sought to control the £50 billion social security budget.

The Secretary of State for Social Security, who faces an angry reception when he confirms to the Commons that child benefit is to be frozen at £7.25 for the second year running, has nevertheless assembled a benefits deal with the Treasury which ministers and whips hope will be acceptable to the most Conservative MPs.

He will today announce a package of increased family support targeted on the most needy.

But Mr Moore's position was made even more difficult last night as the Labour Party gleefully published a leaked letter from him to Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, showing that some benefit claimants will not be fully reimbursed for the 20 per cent of the community charge that they will have to pay when the new local finance system is introduced.

After the fourth serious leak of government papers this year, the Government was branded by Labour a "bunch of cheats".

Meanwhile the customary leak inquiry was set in motion. All the rest have apparently proved fruitless.

Mr Moore's letter to Mr Major referred to a letter from the Chief Secretary dated September 12, earlier in the public spending discussions.

In it Mr Moore urged Mr Major to accept his figures for compensating social security claimants for the poll tax.

The Government has said that claimants will have to pay 20 per cent of the charge but they will be compensated by a social security uprating of 20 per cent of the national average community charge.

Clearly, claimants living in high spending areas will not be fully reimbursed — a point the Government has not sought to hide as it has argued that they have the remedy of voting out extravagant councils.

But, according to Mr Moore, the Prime Minister

has given a pledge to protect the "average liability of those on income support", a point later questioned by government sources.

Because claimants tend to be clustered in high spending areas, that would require rebates 7 to 8 per cent higher than those indicated by the crude national average.

However, Mr Moore adds, he is not bidding for this extra money, confining himself to warning Mr Major that the sums being sought (£1.05 and £1.30 for single people under and over the age of 25 respectively and £2.10 for couples) are the minimum he can defend in the Commons.

Mr Robin Cook, Labour's health spokesman, to whom the letter was personally leaked, said: "In this letter John Moore admits he is not seeking an increase in social security which will fully compensate claimants for the added burden of the poll tax. He makes that point quite explicitly by stating he is bidding for less than the department estimates."

"He points out that the

Continued on page 24, col 5

MPs to quiz BAE and Rover heads

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

MPs on the all-party Commons trade and industry committee agreed unanimously yesterday to recall Mr Graham Day, the Rover Group chairman, and Professor Roland Smith, the British Aerospace chairman, because they believe the two men may have misled them over the consequences of the companies merging.

They want to know why Mr Day told them during a private session last May that Rover had no plans to close any plants. A week after the BAE takeover was completed in July, Mr Day announced the closure of plants at Cowley South and Llanelli, with the loss of 3,400 jobs.

Some MPs on the committee suspect that Rover may have sent it a "laundered" copy of its highly confidential corporate plan and they intend to confront Mr Day with this charge. They also want to know exactly what plans BAE has for Rover, particularly in view of the enormous capital value of some of Rover's assets.

Next year, BAE could raise up to £150 million from the sale of its 40 per cent stake in the Anglo-Dutch truck maker DAF, a windfall equal to the purchase price paid by BAE for Britain's last volume car maker.

BAE is also the subject of serious "asset-stripping" allegations concerning another of its recent purchases from the Government, Royal Ordnance.

Mr Day and Professor Smith have been ordered to appear before the committee next Wednesday, and the MPs have decided that the entire session will be public.

Last night Rover declined to comment.

15 killed in Israeli air raids

By Our Foreign Staff

Israel launched two air raids into Lebanon yesterday, and Israeli-backed guerrillas went into action in an apparently co-ordinated move.

The Palestinians reported 15 people dead and 40 wounded in an Israeli raid on the Mieh Mieh refugee camp on the edge of Sidon, and in a later attack near Beirut.

In their deepest penetration in three years, about 200 militiamen from the South Lebanon Army, backed by tanks, attacked an area held by Palestinians and Muslim guerrillas of the Sunni Muslim Popular Liberation Army.

The raid on Mieh Mieh killed four guerrillas and a family of seven, according to a Palestinian official. The attack appeared to be in retaliation for an attempt by seven Palestinian guerrillas to infiltrate northern Israel on Monday. Full story, page 11

Maude to introduce curbs on loan sharks

By Maria Scott

The Government plans to dismantle the system which requires credit brokers to be licensed, as part of reforms designed, according to the Department of Trade and Industry, to crack down on loan sharks.

Under the regime outlined in a consultative document issued yesterday by Mr Francis Maude, Minister for Corporate Affairs, it is suggested that while lenders will need licences, the brokers who in

many cases arrange the loans and advertise aggressively, will not.

At present brokers offering loans up to £15,000, often advertised as "round-up" loans to pay off credit cards, but which are set against property as security, require a licence under the Consumer Credit Act.

But Mr Maude argued that the policing system would be improved because he would

Continued on page 24, col 7

Cambridge dons dither over 'sexist language'

By Nicholas Wood and Andrew Morgan

Cambridge dons start voting today on a controversial proposal to eliminate "sexist language" from the university's historic rulebook.

The move, backed by the Council of the Senate and student organizations, is opposed by conservative academics who argue that the university is in danger of losing more than £10,000 in pursuit of passing fashion.

Flysheets setting out the conflicting arguments have been circulated with dons putting their names to one side or the other.

academics calling for an end to the use of the male-only pronoun to denote members of both sexes.

It would mean the insertion of "he or she" and "himself or herself" in the existing rulebook.

The vote will be taken today and tomorrow among the dons and researchers making up Regent House. If the proposal is carried the university's 1,152-page Statutes and Ordinances will have to be rewritten.

Its main body dates from 1926 when it was set out by the commissioners and approved by the King. About 2,900 dons are eligible but only about 500 are expected to vote.

Professor Godley said: "It is not always easy for women coming to Cambridge as teachers to come into

the community and be treated equally. This would be an indication of an attitude in a fundamentally conservative institution and it is particularly important."

Dr Sheila Lawlor, the deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies and a former Cambridge research fellow in modern history, said: "Why should the English language and the traditional language of statutes be debased in order to appease the hysterical followers of contemporary fashions, whose interests are not in the serious business of academic scholarship but in modern trends?"

The flysheet signed by Professor Butler and Professor Godley supports the Council of the Senate, by a

majority vote, that "under modern conditions it is no longer appropriate to use words of the masculine gender to denote members of both sexes".

They say the use of the masculine pronoun to cover members of both sexes "reflects the way that language has been used to support a particular political, economic and social structure — that of patriarchy."

Dr Lawlor said talk of "patriarchy" was merely echoing "feminist claptrap" more commonly associated with left wing political activists.

Supporters of the non-sexist approach have accused their opponents of exaggerating the cost of the changeover, pointing out that the Senate in its report estimated the bill would be £9,000 over three years.

ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR

● On Saturday The Times will appear in five sections, with full colour in each.



Out of the ashes

● It came a few days after the installation of the Bishop of Durham; some called it the wrath of God. Certainly, the fire that swept York Minster on July 9, 1984 took a terrible toll, razing the South Transept and wrecking the Rose Window.

● On Saturday The Times salutes the craftsmen who have completed the greatest restoration challenge in Britain this century.

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● Yesterday's winner, page 3
● Portfolio list, page 29

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Head bans play over 'gay' role

A play in which one character is a homosexual has been banned by the headmaster of a mixed comprehensive school.

Mr David McGregor, of the Broadlands Secondary School, Keynsham, near Bristol, fears that the play, *Trapped in Time*, would contravene Section 28 of the Local Government Act which bans the promotion of homosexuality in books and plays on local authority property.

In a letter to the Avon Touring Company of Bristol, which wrote and performs the play, Mr McGregor, who has not seen the work, said: "The scene was described to me in such a way that I felt some of our third year pupils and their parents may interpret this as contravening Section 28." Miss Cathy Stuart, for the company, said: "There is nothing in the play which is remotely offensive."

● The Irish Republic is breaking the European Convention on Human Rights by maintaining legislation making homosexual activity a criminal offence, the European Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday.

Drive against fraud

The Ministry of Defence is considering the introduction of a confidential "hot-line" for informants to help to curb fraud and corruption among defence equipment contractors. It disclosed yesterday that it intends specifically to discuss the merits of such a "hot-line" with the American Department of Defence, which has found the system to be valuable and cost-effective. The disclosure came in a formal government reply to the Commons Public Accounts Committee, which published a report last July.

Freighter trial delay

The captain of the Italian freighter that collided with a Greek cruise ship carrying 486 British schoolchildren and teachers was yesterday granted a six-day delay to prepare his defence for an investigating magistrate's hearing in Piraeus, Greece. The hearing was set for next Tuesday. Captain Flavio Caminale, aged 45, from Genoa, Italy, made the request during a 30-minute hearing, saying there were problems with translating statements.

Irish honours list

An honours list modelled on the French Légion d'Honneur may be introduced in the Irish Republic. One of the first expected to receive the award is Jack Chaston, the English manager of the Irish national soccer team. Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish deputy prime minister, said an honours list was under serious consideration. He told MPs yesterday that if the proposal was approved, the Irish President would make the selection for awards.

King jury stays out

The jury considering the case against three alleged Irish terrorists accused of plotting to murder Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, spent last night at a secret address because it was unable to reach a verdict after deliberating for seven hours. John McCann, aged 25, Martina Shanahan, aged 23, and Finbarr Cullen, aged 28, have denied conspiring to murder Mr King and other people between May 1 and August 31 last year.

More Alpha bodies

A further 21 bodies were recovered from the accommodation module of the Piper Alpha platform, police said yesterday. The latest phase of the search brings the total number of bodies found so far in the upturned structure to 51, of which eight have been identified. Another 60 men are still unaccounted for since the North Sea disaster almost four months ago in which 167 men died.

Labour acts on unions

Labour leaders took the first steps towards reducing the influence of trade unions in party decisions last night (Philip Webster writes).

The national executive supported plans to extend the use of one-member-one-vote ballots, making them mandatory in all future leadership elections.

By a vote of 21 to five, the

organizational committee of the party was instructed to produce firm proposals on extending internal democracy by January next year.

The NEC also decided to set up a committee to examine ways of changing the proportion of voting at Labour conferences, reducing the block votes that trade unions currently enjoy.

Confusion over Hurd's 'guide' to Sinn Fein ban

By Richard Evans, Richard Ford and Jamie Dettmer

Confusion and anger continued to surround the Government's broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein last night after the attempt by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, to clarify its precise remit.

While television and radio chiefs, especially in Northern Ireland, remain worried and uncertain about how they will be affected in key areas of reporting, Unionist politicians accused Mr Hurd of giving in to pressure from broadcasters and providing Sinn Fein with an opportunity to appear legitimate.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, which reissued guidelines on Tuesday to independent television companies and commercial radio stations after receiving an explanatory letter from the Home Office, is to be asked by radio and television stations to go back to the Home Office for clarification.

Mr David Sloane, head of news at Belfast's independent radio station, Downtown, said that the Government was getting into a "bigger and bigger mess every time they issue new guidelines". The authority said

last night: "We have had requests for further clarification. The most difficult area involves Sinn Fein councillors and when they are speaking about things which can be safely broadcast."

In his announcement to the House of Commons last week, Mr Hurd gave MPs the impression that all statements by representatives of Sinn Fein, the Ulster Defence Association and nine other paramilitary organizations would be banned along with statements from people supporting or inviting support for them.

He said he had issued the BBC and IBA with a notice "requiring them to refrain from broadcasting direct statements by representatives of organizations proscribed in Northern Ireland and Great Britain and by representatives of Sinn Fein, republican Sinn Fein and the Ulster Defence Association".

The exceptions, he told MPs, would be broadcasting the proceedings of Parliament and they would have a limited effect during elections.

But within minutes of his statement, officials from his department said reports of Sinn Fein press

conferences could be broadcast as "voice overs". They would be able to report a Sinn Fein rally at which supporters had shouted "Up, up, up the IRA" or an oration by Mr Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein MP for West Belfast, in which he defended the "armed struggle" of the Provisional IRA.

Officials added that it would be possible for direct statements to be broadcast by a member of Sinn Fein talking about his hobby such as birdwatching but said there would be "grey areas" when it involved a Sinn Fein councillor talking about a purely local issue such as an adventure playground.

Now the Home Office has added to the confusion among broadcasters by saying it will be possible to broadcast direct statements by Sinn Fein councillors discussing the problems of, for example, a local swimming pool.

Yet the order issued by the Home Secretary to the BBC and IBA states that they refrain from broadcasting any matter where the person speaking the words represents or purports to represent an organization specified in paragraph two or the order. Among those specified in the para-

graph is Sinn Fein. Producers and editors in Northern Ireland are operating virtually a total ban on Sinn Fein members appearing on their programmes in spite of the Home Office saying that a blanket ban is not necessary.

Broadcasters in Northern Ireland do not understand how they present such councillors — who are well known in the province — as speaking in a "personal capacity".

One senior BBC executive said: "If this went through the courts the judges would have no idea what the Government was talking about."

Northern Ireland MPs are also perplexed by the ban. Most understood that it would apply to the 59 Sinn Fein councillors in the province. Unionist politicians are angry at the thought of Sinn Fein councillors being allowed to appear on television in any guise.

Mr Ken Maginnis, Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said: "What Mr Hurd is saying is that he will now allow those people who advocate violence to go on television and radio to talk about reasonable issues so that they can appear to be reasonable politicians". He added: "Mr Hurd is providing

them with a window of opportunity that will permit them to appear legitimate."

Mr Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, also criticized the Government for the confusion. He believes the ban, which he and his party opposed, is becoming increasingly threadbare. "Foolishness has been replaced by utter stupidity", he said.

Since the ban was announced last week by Mr Hurd the broadcasting companies in Northern Ireland have avoided transmitting any interviews with members of proscribed organizations, whether the members are councillors or not.

They have also been cautious about using pictures of members of proscribed organizations with voice-overs of their speech by journalists.

Mr Hurd's clarification has emphasized that the combination of pictures and voice-overs is acceptable but broadcasters still do not understand how that lets them off the hook on the promotion issue.

The ban has caused a particularly sharp problem for BBC Radio Foyle in Londonderry, where there are five Sinn Fein councillors and where the population is two thirds Catholic.

TUC joins in rally action over GCHQ

By Roland Rudd, Employment Affairs Reporter

The TUC General Council yesterday agreed details for 20 marches and rallies in leading cities throughout England and Wales on November 7.

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "The TUC, which has received world-wide messages of support for the GCHQ workers, has made every effort to ensure the success of our day of action. We hope that ordinary people throughout Britain will join our rallies to register their voice of protest at the Government's actions."

The trade union movement has come under increasing pressure to step up its campaign of action against the Government's decision to dismiss or transfer the last 18 remaining trade unionists at the General Communication Headquarters.

The pressure is from the unlikely source of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, expelled from the TUC and derided by the left as a "bosses' union".

Mr Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Servants, yesterday said that in light of the unionists' decision to ballot its 43,000 members in the electrical supply industry on a one-day strike he would "warmly welcome" a similar decision from other unions representing industrial Civil Servants.

Leaders of Britain's 90,000 industrial Civil Servants are planning to meet later this

week to review their strategy to defend the GCHQ trade unionists.

The move by the EETPU is an illustration of how Mr Eric Hammond, the union's general secretary, has stolen the thunder on the GCHQ issue.

Mr Hammond yesterday accused both the Government and the TUC of standing together and denying the individual the right to join the union of his choice.

"How could we fight for the individual's right to join the union of his choice and be expelled from the TUC because we would not accept their dictation and then accept the Government's GCHQ ban on trade union membership? We reject them both because we must follow our own star."

Mr Hammond made it clear that he has always resisted the use of industrial action for political purposes but argued that his union's action was not about political objectives but in protecting fundamental human rights, which took many years of sacrifice to achieve.

He said he would not allow the Government to go unchallenged to treat trade union members as enemies. "A vote by our power workers to stop work — by workers who have never struck for themselves, would be a further political blow to the Government who advocate strike ballots. From our independent and I believe morally correct position I urge it to think again."

The signs of a winner



Peter Carey, who won the Booker Prize with his novel *Oscar and Lucinda*, autographing copies of the work at Dillon's bookshop in London yesterday (Photograph: Alan Weller)

Bradford critics take legal action

By Ronald Faux

Opponents of Bradford City Council's plans to cut spending and shed jobs will be taking legal action against the council, Mr Philip Bealey, leader of the city's Labour opposition, said last night.

He said a group of individuals directly affected by the cuts would be seeking an injunction on the council for a judicial review of proceedings

this week whereby a package of cuts was passed on the casting vote of Mr Smith Midgley, the mayor.

"This legal action is not by the Labour Party but by people who will be adversely affected if these Tory measures happen", he said. He understood a hearing would be held in London tomorrow

disgraceful role" the mayor had played by wielding his casting vote.

The Conservatives won control of Bradford last month after a by-election resulted in a council of 45 Labour members, 43 Conservatives and two SDP representatives. To angry opposition, a package saving £5.8 million immediately and axing 2,500 council posts over the next five years was passed on Monday.

Paying for education will close status gap

By Sam Kiley

The division in status between universities and polytechnics will steadily decline if students have to pay part of their education cost, Mr Robert Jackson, the minister for Higher Education said in Birmingham yesterday.

He told the Association of Polytechnic Administrators that government policy to introduce a "more market driven system" would mean the divide between the two sectors would disappear in all but name, but polytechnics could not rename themselves universities.

Mr Jackson also hinted the Government might allow students greater consumer choice, indicating support for a voucher scheme of funding higher education through students rather than the centrally organized block grant.

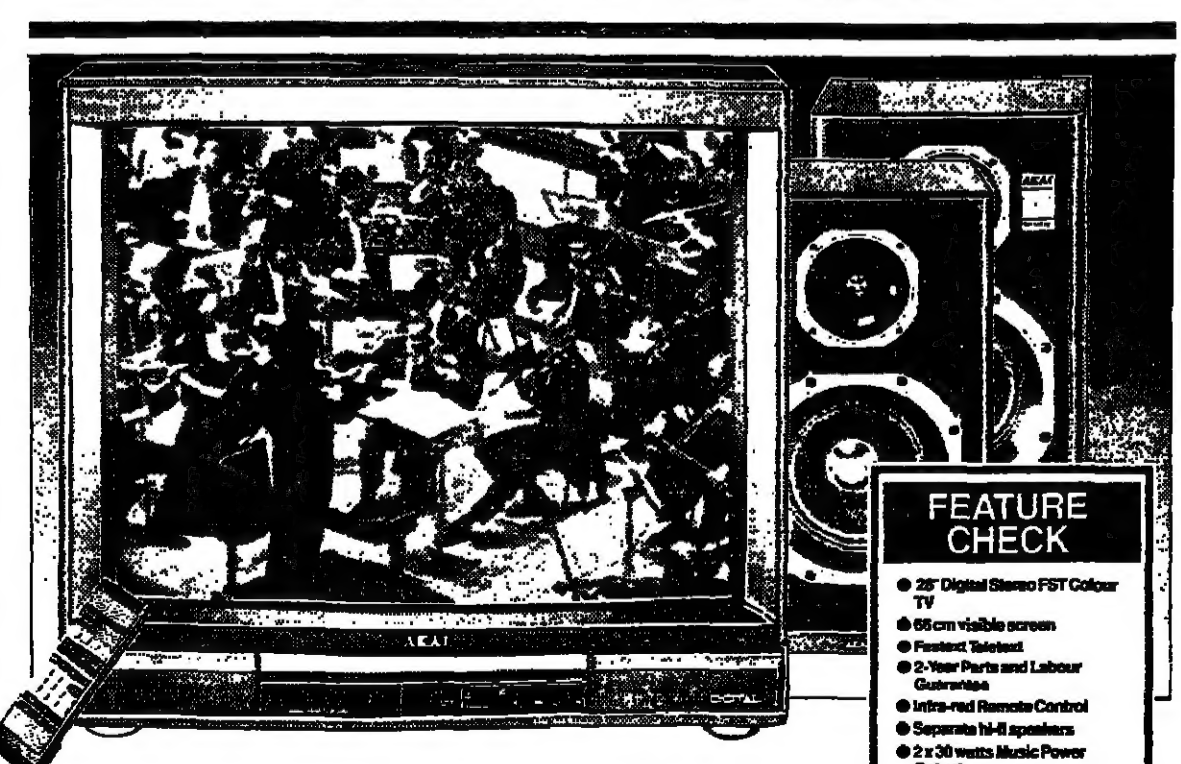
Rather than put people off higher education, as was suggested from the floor, student loans would "encourage students to think about the costs and the benefits".

Mr Jackson said it could encourage bright students from poor backgrounds to study locally and "contribute to the economic regeneration of deprived areas" on graduation.

Correction

The report on ending Greenwich Mean Time (October 26) wrongly described the independent Policy Studies Institute as a "right-wing think tank". It is a proposed that Double British Summer Time be introduced during the summer and British Standard Time during the winter, providing an extra hour of daylight in the evening throughout the year.

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The greenhouse effect Britain joins global project

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Britain is to contribute to an international research project to discover which countries are responsible for the gradual warming of the Earth.

The project is being carried out under the auspices of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency.

It has been prompted by growing anxiety among atmospheric scientists that our knowledge of the origin of "greenhouse gases" that trap heat in the atmosphere is far from adequate.

Without a better understanding of the contribution individual gases make to the overall "greenhouse effect", which could cause a potentially catastrophic global warming, scientists run the risk of designing countermeasures that fail to tackle the real culprits.

The research will initially

focus on the burning of fossil fuels for power within the OECD countries. Later, it will build up a global inventory of the gases produced by all countries. The results are expected early next summer.

Carbon dioxide generated by the burning of fossil fuel is certain to emerge as the principal greenhouse gas produced by developed nations. However, there is growing concern that another gas, methane, may also be a contributor to global warming.

Miss Jacqueline Karas, a research scientist based at the University of East Anglia's climatic research unit, said yesterday that methane was a far more potent pollutant than carbon dioxide.

"A tonne of methane gas is 80 times more effective than a tonne of carbon dioxide at trapping heat", she said.

Bacteria in the guts of

animals and the vast swamps and paddy fields of the underdeveloped world generate huge quantities of methane. Chemists at the Max Planck Institute in Mainz, West Germany, have calculated that the world's cattle, sheep, goats and other domesticated livestock produce more than 13 million tonnes of methane every year.

Intensive rice paddy farming may be generating a further 115 million tonnes of the gas each year.

Dr Ralph Cicerone, an atmospheric chemist at the US National Centre for Atmospheric Research, Colorado, says carbon dioxide is about 50 per cent more important than other greenhouse gases in producing global warming. However, he believes that the contribution of methane and other trace pollutants could soon match that of carbon dioxide.

Grandmaster title nears for woman

By Raymond Keene

Susan Arkell, Britain's only professional woman chess player, is on target to become a woman chess Grandmaster, after four rounds of the Duncan Lawrie mixed chess invitation tournament at the Eccleston Hotel in London.

Mrs Arkell, from Derby, has clocked up 2½ points from four games. She requires three more points to be awarded the Grandmaster title by the World Chess Federation.

In round four of the tournament she defeated the world boys' under-18 champion Michael Hennigan from London.

The overall lead is still held by Judit Polgar, aged 12, from Hungary, who has 3½ points.

Some f

World Service shakes off its 'crusty' image

BBC World Service is shedding the last vestiges of its old-fashioned, crusty image in preparation for the 1990s (Richard Evans writes).

This Saturday, Imperial Echoes, the signature tune which has heralded daily editions of Radio Newsweek since the last war, is to be replaced by a synthesized version. The change is part of a shake-up of the service, involving the launch of a dozen new programmes, coming into effect this weekend after a two-year review.

The service's image has been updated recently with familiar programme tunes being dropped and younger announcers introduced.

Developing Eastern England

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'EAST COAST MOTORWAY' FEASIBILITY STUDY



Heysel stadium trial

First English fan to speak admits role in violence on terraces

By Paul Valley, Brussels

The first of the 24 Liverpool football supporters to give evidence in their trial for manslaughter yesterday admitted his part in the violence at the Heysel stadium riot.

However, Michael Barnes, aged 23, said he did not feel it made him responsible for the deaths of the 39 people crushed in the stampede.

Mr Barnes, a roofer from Bristol, gave his evidence after a series of accounts from Belgian and Italian witnesses who said that drunken English fans with "wild and bulging eyes" attacked defenceless families and beat them to the ground.

Shortly before Mr Barnes gave his sworn evidence, half the defence lawyers left the court saying they could proceed no further without consulting their clients, only six of whom were yesterday in court.

Their exit came after yet another dispute with the three judges following the latest ruling on procedure and the rights of the defence.

Mr Barnes, in a statement to the judges at the end of the hearing, which was extended by an hour to allow video pictures of him to be shown, said: "I admit that I was involved in the violence and so far I have spent eight months in a Belgian jail and I may go back again."

"I would like to say sorry to the Italian families who have lost their loved ones but in no way do I feel responsible."

Throughout most of yesterday's proceedings Barnes sat on a bench immediately in front of the judges. There, flanked by his lawyer, who remained in court, and a translator, and with his back to the rest of the room, he sat stock still and listened to readings of statements by witnesses who had identified him from photographs.

They recalled his behaviour on the evening of the European Cup final in 1985. Much of their evidence was highly coloured and filled with hearsay which would have been ruled inadmissible in a British court.

One witness spoke of the entry of Barnes and his fellow fans into the stadium. "Barnes was drunk before he came in. He was being egged on by his

friends. There were no police at the entrance to check them for bottles."

One Belgian witness who had been standing in an area full of family groups said: "The English got very angry. They had wild and bulging eyes. They only stopped hitting people when their victim was lying on the ground. People had no defence. We could do nothing."

Another Belgian witness said of Mr Barnes: "This is the man I saw taking part in the riot. He was displaying extravagant aggression."

"The English were chasing anything that moved and in particular anyone who showed fear."

"I ran away around the corner. There were two policemen there but when they saw the fans they ran away too."

An Italian, Signor Turato Danilo, said of Mr Barnes: "I recognized the face of the man who chased me, hit me with an iron bar and with his fist. I was afraid."

Video evidence shown to the court portrayed Mr Barnes in the middle of a group of fighting Liverpool supporters. He was seen kicking at something on the ground, throwing something at police and surging back and forth in charges.

The court then heard statements given by Mr Barnes to police in Liverpool and in Belgium. These were not consistent in their accounts.

In court he said: "I went over to Z section to the Italians. Then I walked back I was attacked. I ran after the Italian."

"He ran right over to the Italians but I lost the Italian who assaulted me. I spoke an Italian's hat. I walked back to the Liverpool section. Then gendarmes came on to the terraces and I started to fight with them."

However, Mr Barnes vehemently denied allegations that he led charges against the police.

"I did not lead anybody. All my actions were on my own," Mr Barnes denied he was

drunk, saying he never drank and never took drugs.

The disappearance of half the defence lawyers came after the judges ruled that their latest demand - that 48,000 pages of evidence should be read aloud - was unreasonable.

The relevant evidence against each individual would, however, be read aloud so long as the defendant concerned was in court.

No free copy of the prosecution dossier would be given to the defence. Lawyers had already had ample time to consult it in the prosecutor's office said one of the judges, Mme Michelle Berlemont.

She declined again to rule on the most controversial issues - whether certain edited video evidence was admissible and whether the defence could have more witnesses called.

Then, to the annoyance of defence lawyers, she announced that six extra witnesses would be called for the two Belgian police officers who are in the dock with the fans.

Some 20 defence lawyers then left the court for a private conference. However, although a majority favoured a walk out by the defence and the accused, a minority disagreed.

These returned to court. The others left the building announcing their intention to consult their clients, who are at present in England awaiting the court's summons to give evidence.

Sir Harry Livermore, the English lawyer representing 14 of the fans, said afterwards: "There's been a great deal of confusion among the defence."

"At the moment I am very confused because if the Belgian lawyers can't make up their mind what can I do?"

"I think I'm probably going to tell my clients that it would be safer for them to turn up and be examined, much as I don't like the whole situation."

Three more Liverpool fans, Mr Stanley Conroy, Mr Gary Cooper and Mr David Duncan, are due to appear in court on Friday morning.

On Friday afternoon the judges will visit the scene of the disaster.

Oxford's £220m appeal gets underway



Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (left), chancellor of Oxford University, and Sir Patrick Neill, the vice-chancellor, outside the Sheldonian Theatre and the Clarendon Building, during the launch yesterday of the Campaign for Oxford, a £220 million fund-raising drive to secure the future of the university.

Fast food provides more fat than fibre

By Robin Young

Some fast food is so fatty that it can never be balanced to form part of a healthy diet, according to a book published yesterday.

Dr Tim Lobstein, a researcher with the London Food Commission, had 40 fast food meals analysed and found that many take-aways were overloaded with fat, salt and sugar but contained little or no fibre and few essential nutrients.

Professor Michael Crawford, professor of comparative nutrition at the Institute of Zoology, said at a conference launching the book in London that there was now strong evidence that fat in the diet, to which fast food made a large contribution, was a serious health problem directly causing the high incidence of heart disease and cancer of the breast and colon.

Dr Tim Lobstein, director of the commission, called for fast food ingredients to be listed, and said that the best hope for improving the British legislation on ingredient listing lay in a proposal from the European Commission which could greatly improve on existing regulations.

Dr Lobstein's research took

FAT CONTENT AS PROPORTION OF CALORIES

Government recommendation: Maximum 30-35 per cent including 10 to 15 per cent from saturates

Product	Fat content (%)
Wimpy Halfpounder	56 (30% from saturates)
Kentucky Fried Chicken	58 (21)
Fillet-o-fish and fries	53 (19)
Big Mac and french fries	48 (19)
Burger King Cheeseburger	43 (20)
Kentucky barbecue beans	10 (0)

three years and included searches in fast food restaurants when ingredient information had been refused by companies such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Trust House Forte. Other companies, such as Wimpy and Pizzaland, were more open and helpful, the researchers said.

In the food analyses, carried out by Southwark public analysts, there were found to be nearly two ounces of fat and five grams of salt in a Wimpy halfpounder and up to 21 sugar lumps in a large cola or 14 in a large milkshake. Only six of the fast food dishes analysed were found to be fairly balanced. Nearly three quarters were high in fats with many having as much as 60 per cent of their calories in the form of fat, nearly double the Government's recommended level.

Dr Lobstein said: "High fat,

be labelled like other food products so customers know what they are getting and can make an informed choice."

Dr Michael Jacobson, of the American Center for Science in the Public Interest, said: "Walk into a Burger King or McDonald's in the USA and you can pick up a fully detailed list of ingredients for their products."

He said he was surprised to find that McDonald's in Britain still serve no salads, which have been introduced in the United States.

Fast Food Facts: A Survival Guide to the Good, the Bad and the Really Ugly of Fast Foods. Tim Lobstein (London Food Commission, 88 Old Street, London, EC1; £4.95 plus £1 p&p).

British scientists yesterday unveiled a simple, cheap powder which they claim can transform junk food crisps, chocolates and cakes into wholesome high-fibre food.

The additive is tasteless and leaves a food's texture unchanged. Researchers from British Sugar, who have developed the supplement, claim studies carried out at Surrey University demonstrate their additives - Beta Fibre - may also protect some women from brittle bones later in life.

Year's jail for knife attack on McAlinden

A postman who stabbed Danny McAlinden, the former Commonwealth heavyweight boxing champion, after being refused entrance to a London club, was sentenced to 12 months' jail yesterday.

Mr McAlinden stopped two brothers, Leo and Michael Gorman, from entering Camden Palace on February 18, Soarsbrook Crown Court, east London, was told.

Leo Gorman then stabbed Mr McAlinden in the chest and another doorman in the stomach. "I could have died", Mr McAlinden said.

Gorman, aged 29, of Islington, north London, denied two charges of wounding but was convicted. His brother was acquitted.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

A National Health Service manager won yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio prize. Mrs Elsie Baring, aged 65, of Clarence Gate Gardens, Marylebone, north London, has been doing Portfolio every day since it started.

Rugby coach finds claims 'distasteful'

A school rugby coach, blamed by former pupils for a rugby accident that left one paralysed, yesterday denied teaching them a dangerous technique.

"There wasn't a need for a new technique. They were an exceptionally good side", he told the High Court in London.

Mr Alun Rees has been accused of teaching schoolboys "inherently dangerous" techniques because he was obsessed with winning at all costs.

Mr Brian Quinn, aged 25, said he broke his back in a school match seven years ago because he was playing the way Mr Rees had taught him.

Mr Quinn, of Eaton Drive, Exeter, is suing the Devon County Council for negligence. The authority runs Exeter Technical College where Mr Rees has been head of physical education and rugby coach since 1971. The claim is denied.

Mr Quinn was paralysed in September 1981 when he went head first into the ground as he was tackled. He said he was

"making the ball available" by placing it on the ground between his legs with both hands, which Mr Rees had taught him.

Mr Rees, aged 46, asked to describe to Mr Justice Ognall his "philosophy of rugby" said he always put his players first.

He aimed to motivate boys to good habits, to help them, encourage them, and to "remind them that no rugby player can be perfect and that youngsters and all players of all ages can but give of their best."

Mr Rees, of Fairfield Avenue, Whipton, Exeter, said he was a selector for the England under-19 team and had helped coach the side and had organized tours by foreign teams.

He said: "I've always stressed the paramount importance of enjoyment of the game with young men. I hope that I would be thorough in everything I did and I've always put them first, always."

He said claim that he wanted to win at all costs were "most distasteful".

"It was one of the things that hurt me

most to hear that being said. There is a great difference between what I call motivation and coaching."

Mr Rees said: "I was like a father to Brian Quinn and I really upsets me. He certainly had skill and flair. He was quick, he picked up skills quickly. He was two matches away from potentially playing for England. Rugby was his life."

He said he was devastated when Mr Quinn was hurt.

He went to see Mr Quinn in hospital but not until 1985 - four years later - did he learn he was being blamed for what was a "freak accident", which happened after an opposing player pulled Mr Quinn down and the other players "piled in".

Three years before the accident he had been on a rugby injuries course.

He denied ever teaching the technique. "Common sense would say it's very dangerous," he described claims that he had told the players to "take out" members of other teams as "an utter lie".

The hearing continues today.

Many ignorant about rights on loan agreements

By Ruth Gledhill

Ignorance about debt and finance agreements is still a big national problem compounded by the increased availability of credit.

People seduced into debt by the temptation of "buying now, paying later" showed a staggering lack of awareness about their rights in a survey by the Office of Fair Trading.

More than 80 per cent did not know that they can get a loan agreement changed if they are charged an extor-

tionate rate of interest. "There are people who think that a secured loan is a safer loan", Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, said.

"They do not realize that their home is used as security on the loan and that it is at risk if they fail to repay."

The new edition of *Fair Deal*, a paperback guide to shoppers' rights, launched by Sir Gordon yesterday, has enlarged sections on debt and credit to cope with the rising problem of over-commitment. The amount outstand-

ing on consumer credit agreements rose to £40 billion this summer.

Of a sample of 2,000, more than one in three had complaints about things they had bought in the 12 months to September, and half complained about services.

Nearly half did not know who is responsible if an electric kettle bought from a shop does not work, did not realize that a shopkeeper who charges more than the marked price can be taken to court or that a fairground operator cannot

absolve himself from liability for an injury by displaying a notice which says that customers ride at their risk.

A third did not know they can cancel a contract with a double-glazing salesman who calls uninvited at their home.

Food, drink, road and rail transport were the most unsatisfactory. More than twice as many people were dissatisfied with the post and telephone service than with any other service.

Fair Deal (Stationery Office; £1.95).

Some famous last words on death

Kingsley Amis and Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, are in broad agreement about what will happen to them when they die: nothing.

Their and other well-known people's beliefs about what death has in store for them are disclosed today in a new book, *My God*.

Hayley Mills, the actress, and Marcus MacLaine, a rock music manager, asked each contributor two questions: "Who or what is your personal concept of God?" and "What do you believe happens to you when you die?"

Responses range from precise physical descriptions to deep philosophical ponderings.

Jeffrey Archer would like to while away his time watching cricket from the

Lord's pavilion after death. He fears, however, that God may prefer him to spend years as a spectator at some wrestling matches.

Paul McCartney believes he will, in the words of John le Mesurier, the actor, just "cook out", but Lord Forte is sure he will be sent to heaven, and it will be a "beautiful place".

Spike Milligan shows his philosophical beliefs through a touching children's story about two ugly caterpillars called Ding and Dong who appear to die, but are reborn as beautiful butterflies.

Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, believes this is the only life.

"I believe that with death comes extinction", he says. Arthur C Clarke, the author and scientist, says he does not

believe in God, "but I'm very interested in him".

Patrick Moore, the astronomer, believes God is "not a supreme being who will tolerate the World Council of Churches (backed by the Church of England) in its continuing support and organization of murder and terrorism in Southern Africa."

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, also has no concept of life after death. He said: "I only pray that when I die there will be no pickets at the Pearly Gates, only a sign saying 'vacancies - apply within'."

The book has a foreword by the Princess Royal, president of Save the Children Fund. Royalties will go to the charity. *My God* (Pelham Books; £9.95).

DIAMOND SERVICE

TEN JETS A DAY BETWEEN HEATHROW AND LIVERPOOL? IT HAS TO BE DIAMOND SERVICE.

From October 31st there is a new standard of service between Heathrow and Liverpool: Diamond Service, only from British Midland.

On board this means Business Class service for everyone, with superb food and drinks compliments of BM.

And attention to every detail starts before you even board. For instance, for your onwards BA flight you can choose your seat at Liverpool long before anyone else checks in at Heathrow.

Add to this our exclusive Diamond Service departure lounges and our unrivalled reputation for punctuality, and you will begin to see why BM has so frequently, and again this year, been voted Best Domestic Airline.

HEATHROW-LIVERPOOL - LIVERPOOL-HEATHROW			
08.30	09.20	07.05*	07.55
11.30	12.20	10.10	11.00
14.15	15.05	12.50	13.40
17.00	17.50	15.40	16.30
20.00	20.50	18.40	19.30

*Mondays dep. 06.45 arrive 07.25. Other times are Monday-Friday.



BRITISH MIDLAND

Investigation team doubled to combat charity fraudsters

By Emma Wilkins

Mr Robin Guthrie, the Chief Charity Commissioner, urged the public yesterday to think twice before giving to charities which they suspect may be involved in tax evasion or other fraudulent activities.

The commission, which works with the Inland Revenue and the police in investigating alleged abuses, received 1,000 complaints last year, of which almost 200 were accusations of fraud.

The Inland Revenue estimates that charity fraud amounts to at least £120 million a year.

Mr Guthrie disclosed yesterday that he is planning a campaign against those who abuse their charitable status.

"We have 15 people carrying out investigative work at the moment, out of a total of 330 staff, and I have authorized another 22 to start over the next few months", he said.

He suggested that people should check that a particular charity was authorized by the local authority or the police before making a donation.

"The public should be careful, because there are undoubtedly people going around who are not actually collecting for the charities they

pretend. "This happens particularly where children, cancer and animals are concerned, because people are most gullible in these areas - they twang the heart strings."

But he added: "People must not stop giving to charity just because there are a few rogues about."

"The thing is to be confident, particularly with house-to-house collections."

"If you have any serious doubts, just don't give."

"If the collector says he's left his authorization card behind then say, 'thank you very much, bring it tomorrow'."

Charities collect £12.6 billion a year in donations and with tax exemptions at £2.5 billion, the scope for fraud is extensive.

The Charity Commission was criticized earlier this year by the Commons Public Accounts Committee for its failure to crack down on fraud.

An all-party group of MPs accused the commission of complacency.

Sir Philip Woodfield's report into the supervision of charities, published in 1987, emphasized the need for more staff to combat the problem.

The Government has accepted the report and will be introducing legislation in January to extend the Charity Commission's powers.

Mr Guthrie, who took over as Chief Charity Commissioner last February, said: "We need to get ahead in our investigative capacity."

"We need to expand our capacity to take up all the cases that the Inland Revenue has been able to lay before us for investigation since the 1986 Finance Act."

"We can only manage a relatively small number intensively at any one time."

"I need to increase that number, so the additional staff will enable me to do that in the course of the next few months."

"People have got to be on their guard the whole time against fraudulent fund raisers."

"It's only with people's co-operation that we shall pick up on them. We have got to police it the whole time and be on the alert."

He added: "Our mission is that we should be able to say to people, 'You can trust charity'; that is what we are about."

"Don't stop giving to charity, just be sure what it is that you are giving to."

New passport for citizen Hurd



By Kerry Gill

Hurd, Douglas Richard, British citizen was the name on the new, machine-readable EC common format passport issued in Glasgow yesterday with the impressive-looking number 000000001.

Mr Hurd, the Home Secretary, was given the new passport at the official inauguration of the new Glasgow Pass-

port Office, the first in Britain to be fully computerized.

The passport, in spite of its number, was not the first to be issued. The office began issuing the machine-readable passports in August.

Last year more than two million passports were issued and it is expected that will rise to three million by 1992. With the present manual system now

unable to cope, all five other passport offices in Britain, are to be computerized, at a cost of £7 million, ending with London by December 1989.

From this month, work on postal applications at the London office will be taken over by Glasgow. London will then only deal with applications across the country.

(Photograph: Mike Wilkinson)

Policeman in fatal arrest 'went too far'

One of two police officers astride a man prostrate in a shop had a stranglehold on him, a witness told an inquest at Wolverhampton yesterday.

Mr Sukhvinder Singh Pawar was giving evidence on the third day of the inquest into the death of Clinton McCurbin, aged 24, of Bovey Court, Wednesfield, who died on February 24, 1987, while resisting arrest.

Mr Pawar said that one of the officers kept pulling McCurbin's head back and asking, "Are you all right?" Mr Keith Swayne, the Wolverhampton coroner, asked whether McCurbin replied. Mr Pawar said that the grip was tight enough to stop McCurbin from speaking. "I thought the policeman at the front was going too far."

Mr Pawar, cross-examined by Mr Ian Macdonald, QC, for the McCurbin family, said: "The officer was practically strangling him."

Another witness, Miss Stephanie Ressel, of Edinburgh, said she thought the police had used such force "as was necessary". The inquest continues today.

Settle study

A report on the Carlisle to Settle railway presented yesterday by the English Tourist Board suggested that the line, threatened with closure by British Rail, would be profitable if run by a private company.

Ant invasion

Giant ants are invading homes at Nant-y-Moel, Mid Glamorgan, in Wales. Ogwr Borough Council is planning a £4,000 operation to destroy the Egyptian Pharaoh ants.

Two more ill

Two more cases of Legionnaires' disease were confirmed yesterday in the outbreak involving the British Aerospace plant at Bolton, Greater Manchester. There are now 28 confirmed cases.

Maid for trial

Samia Elasadouli, aged 25, a maid to Margaret, the Duchess of Argyll, was committed for trial at Southwark Crown Court by Bow Street magistrates in London yesterday after allegedly running up a huge telephone bill at her employer's home.

Captain Cook papers fetch £23,000

A narrative of the death of Captain James Cook, including details suppressed in the official accounts, sold for £23,000, just on its upper estimate, in London yesterday.

The minutes for the court martial on 10 culprits from the mutiny on The Bounty tripled their estimate at £15,400.

The intriguing documents were highlights at Christie's Australiana sale, a hugely expanding field. Both were bought by London dealers.

Written by David Samwell, surgeon on Cook's ship, the Discovery, the Cook narrative hints that his officers handled the situation less well than

SALEROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

they might have done, when the captain was killed while trying to stop his officers shooting the natives. It was bought by Quaritch, while the Bligh document was bought by Maggs Brothers, a rival firm.

The top lot, at £77,000, within estimate, was the original manuscript journal of the trips made by Pierre-Bernard Milius, who went on an important French voyage of

scientific exploration to Australia on the orders of Napoleon in 1800.

Including detailed descriptions of the flora and fauna, it is written in two different hands at the explorer's dictation, with a number of corrections in Milius's own hand.

A picture of a young couple in a grassy grove, the girl reading as the boy looks admiringly on, became the most expensive Finnish painting ever sold, when it fetched six million kroner (£600,000) at Bukowski, the Stockholm auction house.

A pair of 18th century armchairs fetched £31,900, again to a local private collec-

tor, becoming the most expensive Swedish chairs yet auctioned. These two records completed a highly successful two-day Scandinavian-oriented sale for Bukowski.

There were sensational prices for wrist watches at Sotheby's New York, including a world record when a 1936 Patek Philippe & Co gold calendar wristwatch with moon phases was bought for \$242,000 (£136,900) by a private buyer.

Chatty pen-pal letters from Anne Frank, the Nazi holocaust victim, and her sister to two girls in Iowa were sold at a New York auction for \$150,000.

Red tape 'cutting tourism'

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Red tape was blamed yesterday for blocking tourist development in the regions outside London and the South-east.

The National Economic and Development Council has been warned that "negative postures" adopted by British Airways, the Civil Aviation Authority and the International Air Transport Association, "in other words red tape", are stopping foreign tourists flying directly to the regions.

Mr Brian Wolfson, chairman of the council's tourism and leisure sector group, was speaking after presenting a

report to the full council. He said that at least three American and one Far Eastern airline want to start daily services from Manchester.

A key issue raised in the report is the need to reduce overcrowding of facilities in the South and to ensure that opportunities for increased earnings and employment are spread more evenly throughout the UK, he said.

The report calls for improved road and rail transport facilities, including links from the Channel tunnel, to get people to the regions.

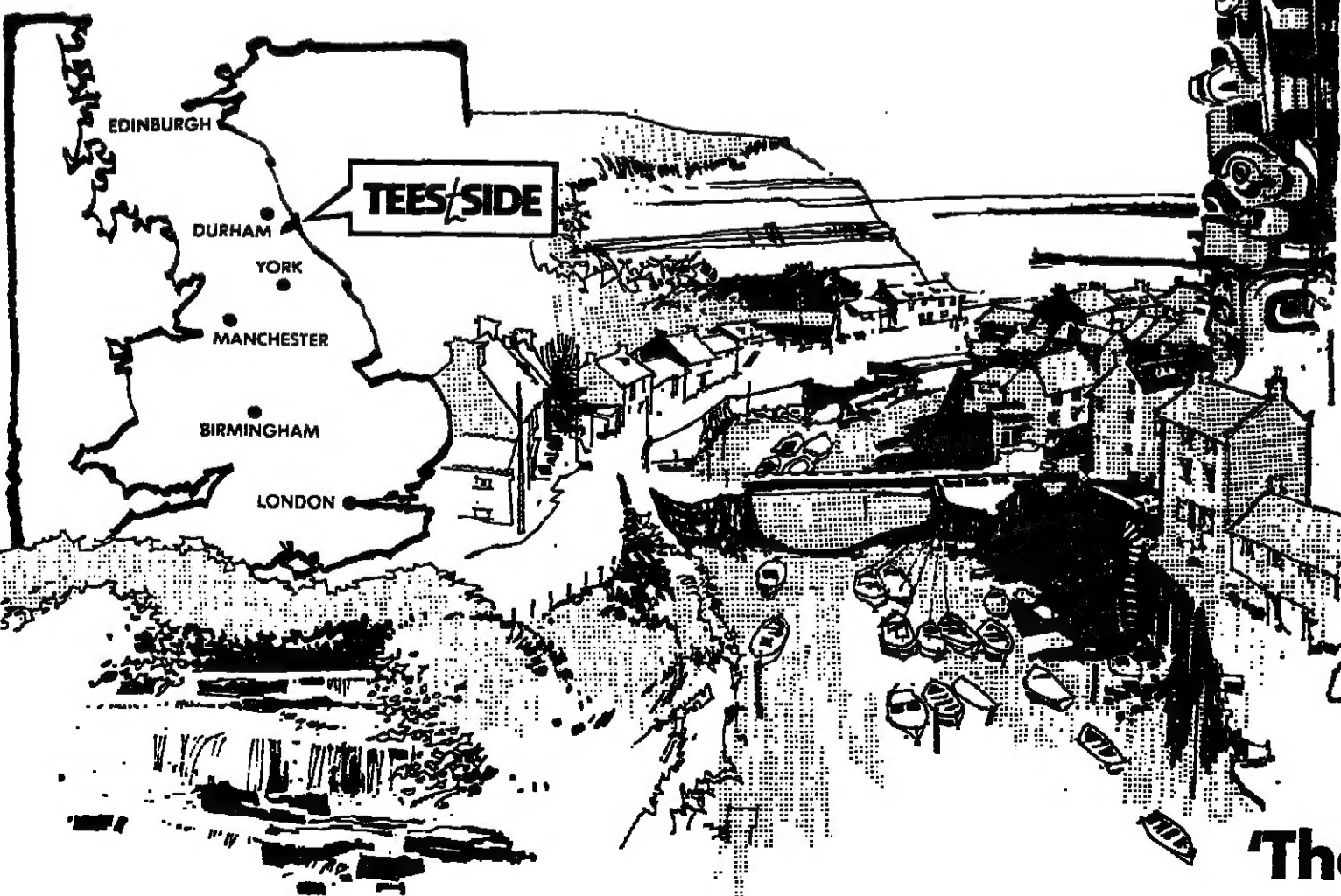
The group suggested employment of pensioners to make up the predicted shortfall of young people to staff the growing tourist industry.

Four more companies have pulled out of the Association of British Travel Agents' annual conference due to open in Jerusalem on Monday.

Thomas Cook, the travel agency chain, Access, the credit card company, Speedbird, the British Airways package tour operator, and Commercial Union have decided not to go.

Thomas Cook said that safety worries were the reason for its withdrawal. The drop-outs bring total cancellations to 200.

TEES/SIDE Living is for



Teesside has a talent for living. A talent recently endorsed by a Glasgow University national survey and ballot on the relative quality of life enjoyed in Britain's urban areas. Northern centres topped the league table. Among them Teesside which came ninth. London was 34th.

Teesside's low cost of living, good quality affordable housing and leisure facilities were among the pluses. And Teesside also scored for excellent access to good scenery.

Those scenic talents? The 36 miles of the spectacular Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coast, topped by high-point Huntcliffe. The 553 square miles of the North York Moors National Park to which Teesside's handsome market town of Guisborough is gateway. The Esk Valley Railway winding its way from Teesside to the picturesque town of Whitby. The Captain Cook Trail, exploring the life of Teesside's famous son from his Birthplace Museum on Teesside through the coastal villages of Marske and Staithes to Whitby.

Inland from Teesside is rolling farmland peppered with pretty villages and ancient churches, and the riches of the upper Tees valley.

The countryside is fabulous, the people are marvellous,

Fingerprints grossly under-used in police fight against crime

By David Walker

Almost 60,000 cases of house-breaking, car theft and cheque fraud go unsolved each year because police officers either do not bother to collect fingerprints or mismanage prints when they do, the Audit Commission says in a scathing report today.

The independent spending watchdog which oversees local government has recently turned its attention to police forces outside London. It says fingerprinting is grossly under-used as a tool in detection, often because of managerial failures.

Each year, in England (outside London) and Wales there are just over two million crimes - such as burglaries or car theft or cheque fraud - where fingerprints might be left by the offender. But only 687,000 of them are investigated for prints. In only 40,000 cases do police fingerprint bureaux match no marks found at the scene of crime.

Mr Howard Davies, controller of the commission and a critic of wasteful spending by local authorities, said: "Not enough criminals are being caught. More could be caught with better management. At a time of increasing public concern about crime, improving the fingerprint service would be one practical step." More fingerprint and scenes-of-

crime officers were required, he said, adding that there was a good case for £10 million extra to ensure more fingerprints were collected and examined.

His auditors will next spring undertake a detailed investigation of fingerprinting services in all the provincial forces. Their work will overlap with a promised shake-up of career structures for scenes-of-crime officers after a joint report by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office is published in the new year.

An investigating team from the Audit Commission found that in one force burglaries were not investigated by scenes-of-crime experts because they had to share cars; in another there is a four-year backlog of fingerprints which have been collected but not catalogued; in several police forces prints are not taken from householders who have been burgled - with the result that their prints cannot be eliminated from those collected from the scene of crime; only 26 per cent of finger marks found are ultimately identified by fingerprint bureaux yet 70 per cent of all offenders who are detected (by whatever means) already have their fingerprints on record and in many forces fingerprint

officers suffer from low morale and poor motivation as a result of monotonous work, low pay and a feeling of alienation from the rest of the police force.

Mr Davies derided suggestions that fingerprinting was becoming obsolete as new computer systems identified marks automatically and new genetic-typing based on DNA samples was tried.

"These developments could take many years to show results. In the meantime there is great potential for improving this Cinderella service."

Fingerprinting is only a small part of police operations, costing only £16 million a year.

Some 460 officers and staff are employed in fingerprint bureaux and 980 staff are employed to collect forensic evidence from scenes of crime.

The 40,000 print identifications made in 1987 represented less than 2 per cent of offences.

"In many cases", the Audit Commission says, "The offender will have left no mark but the proportion of crimes where identification might be made using fingerprints is certainly greater than this".

Audit Commission, Police Paper Number Two (Stationery Office, £5).

Where system can be useful

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

The number of arrests made through fingerprints may be very low according to the Audit Commission report but British police attach more importance to these scenes-of-crime clues than colleagues in many other countries, including the United States.

The technology available in Britain is said to be in advance of many other countries allowing experts to get prints off an increasing number of surfaces.

Specialist groups, such as the fingerprint experts who work with the anti-terrorist branch at Scotland Yard, use the latest technology to catch offenders. It was fingerprint

evidence which helped to convict Patrick Magee, for the bombing of the Grand Hotel, in Brighton.

At the other end of the scale in the world day-to-day crime, the system is often only usable if a criminal already has a record. In those circumstances all that can be done is collect and match marks from crimes and wait until a suspect is held.

In one case in Australia police did finally make an arrest in a case 20 years after the event and used long-stored prints to confirm their arrest.

Police operations also tend to rely on the assumption that

a criminal will work within the locality where he lives.

A search of the scene of a crime may reveal only partial prints, or "marks", and these have to be matched with collections of fingerprints.

The first check of records will take place among collections held by the force where the crime occurred or among regional records.

A national check could take longer and may only be applied for in major cases.

In the case of the search for Donald Neilson, known as the Black Panther and wanted for murder and kidnap, the search for his prints took a year.

Vandal helps Leonardo repair



Detail showing present condition of the cartoon, with repairs continuing, and, below, the damaged area before restoration

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The man who fired a shotgun at the Leonardo cartoon of the Virgin and Child in the National Gallery last year has given experts invaluable help in restoring the damaged drawing.

Robert Cambridge, aged 37, and now in Broadmoor, told police exactly where he was standing and how he held the twelve-bore shotgun when he fired on July 17 last year.

Mr Eric Harding, the restorer, who used the reconstruction of the attack to create a "model" for restoration work, said Cambridge, prompted by his remorse at what he had done, had been very helpful.

Mr Harding, seconded from the British Museum specifically for the job, which he hopes to finish by next spring, said: "This was the trickiest restoration work I have ever undertaken."

He explained how the blast had acted like a punch from a large fist, forcing splinters into the drawing of The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne and Saint John the Baptist.

First Mr Harding removed the tiny splinters of glass from the drawing, of chalk and charcoal on paper, mounted on

canvas. Then he put each tiny fragment of paper into a separate box, each with a "map" attached, indicating its rightful place in the puzzle.

He then used ultra-sonic waves, humidity and vacuum suction to soften and ease the damaged pieces back into shape. Mr Harding said: "I found my success astonishing

because I didn't at first think I could get the fibre structure back together again."

Mr Harding is now on the final stages, filling in tiny white cracks that remain on the repaired surface. He said: "It will, I hope, be pretty invisible from a reasonable distance."

Mellor is warned of huge Aids explosion

By Thomson Prentice
Science Correspondent

Mr David Mellor, the Minister of Health, met seriously ill Aids patients in a London hospital yesterday and was warned by doctors that Britain faces a huge explosion of the disease in the next few years.

Mr Mellor was given a full briefing on the likely course of the epidemic by a group of medical experts at St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, one of the country's leading Aids treatment centres.

Dr Brian Gazzard, co-ordinator of Aids services at the hospital, told Mr Mellor: "We are still seeing a doubling in the number of cases every year, and the figures will become horrific as the years go by."

"There will be a huge explosion in the number of cases. The chances of whether there will be an epidemic in the general population may depend crucially on minor changes in sexual behaviour."

By the end of last month, there were 1,794 reported Aids cases in Britain, of whom 965 sufferers have died.

Another 242 are known to be carrying the Aids virus, but experts estimate the true number of carriers at between 50,000 and 100,000.

Mr Mellor said later: "We are extremely concerned in the Government about the danger of public complacency about Aids. We have to ensure there is a regular flow of information from experts to the public."

Mr Mellor visited six Aids patients at St Stephen's. All were young men at various stages of the disease, and some were too weak to exchange more than a few words.

"If people could see for themselves the awful impact of this illness they might be more compassionate towards sufferers and more concerned about the risks to themselves and those they care most about", he said.

Mr Mellor was told about the recent death from Aids in the hospital of a young woman who unknowingly became infected sexually eight years ago and who then married another man and had a child.

Her husband and the baby contracted the virus before she discovered she was infected, and are now receiving treatment.

Living Living

And in easy reach: Three more National Parks - the Yorkshire Dales, the hill country of Northumberland stretching from Hadrian's Wall to the Cheviots, the Lake District.

Add to this the cathedral splendours of Durham, York and Ripon. The Regency elegance of Harrogate. The well preserved historical legacy of Richmond and Raby castles. The ruined magnificence of priories and abbeys such as Fountains, Rievaulx, Guisborough and Mount Grace.

Equally accessible - the rich industrial and cultural heritage of Teesside itself.

Stockton has a busy market dating back to 1310 - and a direct historical link with modern transport times as the terminus of George Stephenson's pioneering 1825 Stockton-Darlington railway. Yarm has fine 18th century houses and inns.

Old Hartlepool, with a Royal Charter granted in 1201, is dominated by the 12th century St Hilda's church, and has a strong maritime connection demonstrated by a busy port, a maritime museum and - a new venture - the restoration of historic ships.

On the estuary of the Tees - a wildlife refuge with a rich heritage of rare plants, co-existing harmoniously with a massive modern industrial complex.

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To find out more about Teesside's Initiative, Talent and Ability: Contact Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636. Fax: (0642) 230843.

there are thriving industries!

the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, January 4, 1988.

TEES/SIDE
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Angry Delors issues fresh challenge to Thatcher over 1992

From Richard Owen, Strasbourg

M. Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, who sparked a furore in June and infuriated Mrs Thatcher by suggesting an "embryo European government" was not far off, yesterday warned of a "political crisis" in Europe if the debate over 1992 and a united Europe was not resolved.

He challenged Mrs Thatcher to prove the commission was over-reaching itself, and insisted that 1992 and the Single European Act meant the complete abolition of frontiers — "physical, technical and fiscal".

M. Delors told Euro MPs: "We are almost on the threshold of the irreversible, unless a political crisis paralyses the community again." Without mentioning Mrs Thatcher by name, M. Delors angrily rejected her charge that the commission was seeking to impose bureaucratic rule from Brussels and create a "European super-state".

In bringing down borders by 1992 the commission would be fulfilling the Single European Act, he said, adding: "Those who accuse the commission should put forward their evidence when they accuse us of going beyond our responsibilities. The commission is still waiting for the evidence".

Mrs Thatcher launched her attack on the commission at

Bruges last month. She reinforced her defence of national sovereignty most recently in Italy last Friday, when she also turned down proposals for a European central bank.

M. Delors, speaking in the European Parliament, appealed to his critics to resolve the EEC dispute in a spirit of friendship and honesty. "You can be proud of your country

Strasbourg — Norway yesterday appeared to end speculation that it would join the EEC (Richard Owen writes). But Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway's Prime Minister, told Euro-MPs here that Oslo wanted "an active part in Europe" and the 1992 programme for a single market.

and at the same time be a European," he declared. The 31-year history of the EEC showed that "misunderstandings" had to be resolved before they became "uselessly dramatised".

M. Delors offered an olive branch to Mrs Thatcher by praising the Treasury's issue of bonds denominated in European currency units. But he recalled that the last EEC summit in Hanover had committed the EEC to improving working conditions for 1992, and said the commission would table a European charter of workers rights.

To avoid "ideological confrontations" Brussels would make any EEC company law optional.

Euro MPs vote today on three resolutions calling for European union, with Conservative Euro MPs torn between supporting federalism and following the Thatcher line. In the debate yesterday, Mr Christopher Prout, leader of the British Conservatives, rejected plans for 1992 worker participation schemes. He also rejected calls for further powers for the European Commission, saying the commission should acquire "only those powers necessary to fulfill its tasks under the Single European Act".

There was uproar when Dr Barry Seal, leader of the British Labour group of Euro MPs, accused Mr Prout of using "weasel words" and making a "monumental U-turn" by abandoning earlier Euro-Tory support for a united states of Europe.

Dr Seal mocked the Euro Tories for being "obsessive" in toeing the Bruges line. He accused Mrs Thatcher of being "hypocritical and double faced" over the Single European Act, which she herself had signed in 1985.

M. Delors said commission officials would tour EEC capitals to resolve an impasse over regional spending and 1992.

Pretoria poll clampdown



An armed South African policeman standing guard outside a polling station in Athlone, near Cape Town yesterday as members of all races went to the polls nationally to elect more than 800 racially-segregated municipal councils. The poll came against a backdrop of sporadic bombings, a widespread black boycott and a heavy turnout by the security forces. In Soweto, on Johannesburg's south-western doorstep, unknown assailants threw petrol bombs at the homes of three election candidates and a limpet mine exploded

outside a rent collection office (Michael Hornsby writes). Some stonings of buses were reported early yesterday. Leaders of the African National Congress made clear months ago their intention to disrupt the elections. Other above-ground radical groups, almost all of which are banned from political activity, had called for an election boycott.

● LUSAKA: Zambians queued unenthusiastically yesterday outside polling stations here in a one-candidate presidential election for the return to office of Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

Stylish Hussars stir memories of Habsburg glory

From Richard Bassett, Budapest

Nothing is closer to a Hungarian's heart than a well-turned Hussar. After decades of communism giving its soldiers nothing more exciting than brown mackintoshes, Budapest not surprisingly ground to a halt yesterday as a procession of about 100 Hussars, including a detachment from the British Army, rode through the old town.

It was an example of how a love of horses and the age-old chivalry of the cavalry officer can survive communism. Stalinism and normalization only to blossom in the present era of glasnost.

It was also a unique exercise in Nato-Warsaw Pact co-operation. Officers trained to shoot each other from tanks now rode side by side to a newly unveiled monument commemorating the 300th anniversary this week of the first Hussar regiment.

Despite initial misgivings over the dangers of letting young British cavalry officers loose on the streets of a communist capital, officers from four Hussar regiments raided their regimental museums to acquire the correct full dress, last worn in Britain before the First World War.

British Hussar regiments were first raised during the Napoleonic wars in response to the dash — and brilliant uniforms — of Napoleon's Hussars who were modelled on Hungarian horsemen.

The Parisian descendants of Napoleon's troops were also

present yesterday, though on foot, as they were converted into a parachute regiment many years ago.

None the less, they brought along a regimental band which startled Hungarians trying to make their way across the Danube as the procession brought all traffic to a halt.

Not surprisingly, while the British officers sank their regimental differences — "We're all British Hussars here," said Major Mark O'Reilly of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars — competition between the various units taking part in yesterday's ceremony was keen.

"Of course, we're the only soldiers who bother to put any polish on our boots," observed Captain Darling, of the 15th/19th King's Royal Hussars.

"The French have a habit too of singing dreary songs. You know, as the French do," he added, saying that the Austrian Hussars, "frantically keen but high most of the time," had lived things up no end by trying to introduce farm animals during an official tour of an agricultural complex.

For the Austrians present, though they could not boast the same gleaming silver-topped riding crops as the British Hussars, it was a return to the glitz of the Habsburg empire.

"This is really home for us", one of them in a dashing blue uniform said.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Sri Lanka crisis leads to poll offer

Colombo — In an unexpected move to try to solve the deepening Sri Lanka crisis, President Jayewardene said last night that he was prepared to dissolve Parliament, appoint a caretaker government and hold presidential and parliamentary elections (Edward Gorman writes).

The President's decision, in a letter to the four Mahanayakas — the leaders of the country's Buddhist clergy — comes after a mounting campaign of political violence and strikes organized by the Marxist underground Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (People's Liberation Front), which has been demanding the immediate holding of parliamentary elections.

In his reply to the monks, broadcast on state controlled radio, the President said that parliamentary elections — which had not been due until August next year at the latest — would now go ahead and hinted that he was prepared to announce a definite date provided the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna "responds correctly".

Whale rescue near

New York — Russian ice-breakers were on the verge of freeing two whales trapped in ice off Alaska yesterday in what was being hailed as an example of "glasnost on ice" (James Bone writes).

The Russian vessels steamed to within a mile of the whales, as American television news bulletins played with puns about breaking the ice in superpower relations. Rescuers said they expected the whales to be free by the end of the day. The ice-breakers' approach apparently has enlivened them.

Debate aids Turner

Ottawa — Mr John Turner, the Liberal Party leader and former Prime Minister, appeared to be the marginal winner of a three-hour television debate with Mr Brian Mulroney, the Conservative Prime Minister, and Mr Ed Broadbent, the leader of the New Democratic Party, in the run-up to the Canadian federal election on November 21 (John Best writes). The most heated exchange on Tuesday night took place between Mr Turner and Mr Mulroney, when the Liberal chief bluntly told the Prime Minister that, in signing a Canadian-US free-trade deal, he had "sold us out".

Envoy shot dead

Ankara — Mr Abdulghani Bedawi, right, a Saudi diplomat, was shot dead on the steps of his home here on Tuesday night, police said (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

Mr Abdulaziz Khojah, the Saudi Ambassador, declined to speculate on motives but the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad claimed in Beirut that it was responsible.

● Five arrested: Five Iranian diplomats were detained on Sunday in connection with a kidnap bid and sent to Istanbul to appear before a security court, the Anatolian News Agency said.



Rhino kills Briton

Johannesburg (Reuters) — A rhinoceros charged and killed Miss Joanna Copley, a student from Scotland, in a South African game reserve, an official said yesterday. Miss Copley, aged 22, was observing baboons in the Mkuzi reserve near South Africa's eastern coast on Tuesday when a rhino calf appeared, took fright and ran off.

A spokeswoman for the Natal Parks Board said: "The mother followed the calf into the clearing but panicked when she couldn't see him and charged the first thing she saw." A lecturer from Natal University escaped unhurt.

Reporters 'pressured'

Athens — A row has erupted between the ruling Socialists and the Athens Union of Journalists after protests that the Government is putting pressure on radio and television journalists to become tools of official propaganda (Mario Modiano writes).

The confrontation came after Rizospastis, the Communist Party newspaper, revealed that TV's audulatory description of a welcome rally for Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, after heart surgery in London, had been prepared by the Government in advance. Reporters refused to read it.

Motorway madness

Madrid — Police are hunting for a motorist who drove slowly along the M30 motorway, which encircles most of the capital, on Monday afternoon, scattering banknotes from his car window (Harry Debelius writes). His action brought chaos and traffic jams on a five-mile stretch of road as motorists slammed on their brakes and jumped out in front of other vehicles to grab the flying cash or pick it up from the road. Police estimate the driver's largesse amounted to approximately one million pesetas (about £5,000).



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Lacklustre Dukakis turns off millions in TV confrontation

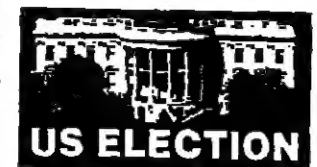
From Charles Bremner, Denver

It had been billed as something akin to the television drama of the century, but the Democratic presidential team searched in vain yesterday for the raw reviews it hoped would flow from Mr Michael Dukakis's 90-minute grilling by America's most ferocious interviewer.

Instead, it found itself back again lamenting missed opportunity after a defensive and deadpan candidate delivered a dry civics lesson to Ted Koppel of ABC's *Nightline*, sending millions of viewers to their channel changers. To add to its misery, *The New York Times* issued an opinion poll yesterday that showed Vice-President George Bush, the Republican runner, leaping ahead to a 51 per cent to 38 per cent lead.

Mr Koppel, a British-born journalist who subjects his victims to merciless prosecution four nights a week, declared: "George Bush has absolutely nailed your hide to the wall, Governor. He turned round the wimp image and he did it by kicking you in the groin." But that opening shot failed to stir the passion that Mr Dukakis told viewers he

harboured. "I'm going to continue to address the concerns of average Americans at a time that they're beginning to focus on the campaign," he said in his usual dry tone. But



he did win points for not flinching under the kind of onslaught that usually demolishes Mr Koppel's victims.

Mr Koppel managed to reveal some remarkable ignorance by Mr Dukakis on one of the key campaign issues — defence spending. Asked if he knew what percentage of the defence budget went to nuclear arms, he replied: "I do not know exactly what the percentage is."

Throughout the campaign, Mr Dukakis has been calling for more expenditure on non-nuclear armaments and urging reduction in spending on strategic weapons, part of a nuclear arsenal which accounts for between 10 per cent and 14 per cent of the budget.

The Massachusetts governor admitted: "I've found it very difficult to give people in this country a real sense of who Michael Dukakis is, particularly what I care about, the kind of deep commitment that I have to this country."

Campaign staff rolled their eyes in the crowded viewing room at a suburban Denver hotel as their man recited off his stock of oft-used phrases.

Later this week, the governor is to face shorter sessions with David Frost, for the Fox TV network, and with interviewers from the two main networks. He is also to address the country in a 30-minute blockbuster commercial on election eve. Mr Dukakis used the Koppel appearance to drive home his current effort to exploit public dissatisfaction with the campaign — a mood measured in *The New York Times* poll yesterday.

Two-thirds of those polled wished that they had choices other than Mr Bush or Mr Dukakis. But the poll also showed that Mr Bush's soft on crime and prone to raising taxes had proved effective.

Dashing Hispanic hero falls from grace

From Christopher Thomas, San Antonio, Texas

Mr Henry Cisneros, the mayor of this Texas town, was more than just that, more than the dashing, beloved political star of America's 10th biggest city — he was the most revered Hispanic in the country, a John Kennedy of his people.

For Spanish speakers, he personified the American dream and was seen by them as the future of the Democratic Party, perhaps even a presidential candidate in 1996.

His declared moral and ethical standards had set the tone for other Hispanics. His picture was found in ordinary households alongside that of the Pope.

But, suddenly, he is in disgrace, his career shattered, his family humiliated, his people appalled. This most public of politicians, who reveals even his New Year's resolutions for the edification of followers (last year's was to be a better father and husband), has gone into retreat, his head bowed. He may even resign as mayor before his term of office expires in April.

The Hispanic community had watched with growing anguish his heartrending public battle to save the life of his only son, named John Paul (after the Pope), who has a heart condition. Millions sympathized when he spoke about the medical bills.

His supporters also watched his barely concealed marital difficulties anxiously. They left him alone when he started



Mayor Henry Cisneros and his wife of 19 years (left) and Miss Linda Medlar, with whom he has admitted having an affair.

missing mayoral duties to be with his son. Priests in San Antonio said frequent prayers for the family at Sunday services.

But today the Hispanic community is hurt and stunned: this good Roman Catholic, who exemplified the very best of the Hispanic community's values, has admitted to an affair. He has crashed from his pedestal.

It is an appalling scandal in the context of the exacting standards so long expected of him, standards to which much of the Hispanic community strictly adheres.

San Antonio, which has a Hispanic majority, had suspected secretly for a long time that Mayor Cisneros was

sleeping with Miss Linda Medlar, his former first lady. It was the talk at the supermarket and in church pews.

But, such was his openness and honesty about his domestic life, that editors were reluctant to publish stories about the couple. To do so would have seemed the betrayal of a good man. Some national newspapers were given full accounts of the goings-on by local journalists, who thought that the story should be told but could not themselves get it printed.

Finally the affair was hinted at in the local press; then the dam was opened by the *San Antonio Express-News*, which began a front-page story with

almost ecclesiastical gravity: "Mayor Henry Cisneros confesses that he is deeply in love with Linda Medlar, a 39-year-old political fund-raiser here, and may marry her after serving out his fourth term..."

There followed a great outpouring of Hispanic dismay, both locally and nationally. The mayor was bombarded with letters sent to his home. "Many are supportive," he said. "But it's the other ones that really got to me."

The family tragedy is felt deeply on a personal level across the San Antonio Hispanic community. The scandal is public. Mrs Mary Alice Cisneros and the couple's children went to the Alamo City Baptist Church on Sun-

day, standing with the minister in front of the congregation, and prayed for the family.

Since being elected at the age of 33, Mr Cisneros has transformed San Antonio. The city is one of the great success stories of America, and its revival brought national and international status to the young mayor.

But now, eight years later, he seems lost. He says he will not seek re-election. He has already said he will not stand for governor or the US Senate.

Whatever the future holds, the Hispanic community — locally and nationally — has one question: Will he really leave his wife, or will the strict moral codes that governed his upbringing prevail in the end?

Dirty campaign by contenders wearies voters

From Michael Binyon, Detroit

Not even the candidates are happy with the tone of their campaigns. Each says he wants to concentrate on the issues and accuses the other of starting the mudslinging.

Yet in a campaign marked by smear and innuendo, deliberately fanned rumours and negative advertising, neither Vice-President George Bush nor Governor Michael Dukakis appears able to take the high road.

Without compelling political issues or personal charisma, each knows the surest way to catch the headlines and boost his chances is to denigrate his opponent.

As a result, this campaign is widely rated as the dirtiest in modern times. And the *American Voter* is fed up. A *Newsweek* poll published this week showed that 64 per cent of those asked said the campaign was more negative than those in the past.

About 66 per cent said the candidates were manipulated by their handlers and were not dealing honestly with the issues. And 74 per cent — almost three in four — thought each man said whatever was necessary to get elected. By a margin of two to one, those asked said better candidates should have been found in each party.

It is a judgement widely held across the country. In conversations from Oregon to Georgia, from Oklahoma to West Virginia, I have found the overwhelming reaction to the candidates and their campaigns was one of contempt and disgust. This was as true of taxi drivers and waitresses as it was of teachers, doctors and the politically engaged.

Mr Bush, aware of a possible backlash to his incessant trashing of his opponent, said this week that he wanted to "step back from the rhetoric of the campaign." He said this would come as a relief to his audience and to him.

But within 10 minutes he was accusing Mr Dukakis again of breaking with American traditions of free enterprise and following an "irrational" policy of high taxes and government regulation.

Indeed, the Bush campaign then increased the barrage of negatives in a swift and deadly riposte to Mr Dukakis's complaints that the Vice-President was telling lies about him. It accused him of using the "Big Lie" himself because his record was too weak to defend. It issued an extraordinary 42-page report detailing Mr Dukakis's record and the controversial Bush television advertisements.

And clearly stung by damaging Democratic charges that

Republican exploitation of the case of the furloughed black murderer who raped and brutalized a couple while out of prison was racist, the document hit back vigorously at Mr Dukakis on crime.

"Given the number of attacks he has made on the furlough issue, it must be his greatest weakness... Dukakis is hoping the truth about his record never catches up with him. He doesn't want anyone to find out how closely his real views on criminals' rights match up with the policies of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union)."

The speed, ferocity and willingness to reply in kind has again thrown Mr Dukakis off balance. He has publicly called the Bush pamphlets "garbage," and Miss Susan Estrich, his campaign manager, said there were "lies, damn lies and George Bush's commercials."

But the Bush riposte — delivered in Washington while the Vice-President was campaigning here so as to distance him from the brawl — returned the initiative to the Republicans.

Polls show that such tactics work well. As *The New York Times* found yesterday, support for Mr Bush is hardening, his lead is widening — 51-38 per cent — and many voters are now persuaded that Mr Dukakis would be soft on crime, raise taxes and weaken US defences.

Though they dislike negative campaigning, they do not hold it against Mr Bush. Indeed, the poll found many Democrats despairing of Mr Dukakis's inability to reply in kind.

Mr Bush has also succeeded with the "good cop, bad cop" tactic. While his campaign is running aggressive advertisements, he is stumping the heartlands sneering at "the liberal governor of Massachusetts," who he says would take away prosperity. But he also talks about his vision of a "kinder, gentler America," and moves on to outline plans for education and the family.

The Republicans say that negatives began at the Democratic convention, when the taunts of "Where was George?" and "Poor George" set the tone and got under Mr Bush's thin skin. Mr Bush was quite prepared therefore to counter-attack with gusto.

The tone will continue until election day. Mr Bush has no reason to change a winning formula. And Mr Dukakis is betraying a sense of desperation in having to use mean tactics to defend himself. Negative campaigning brings in the votes.

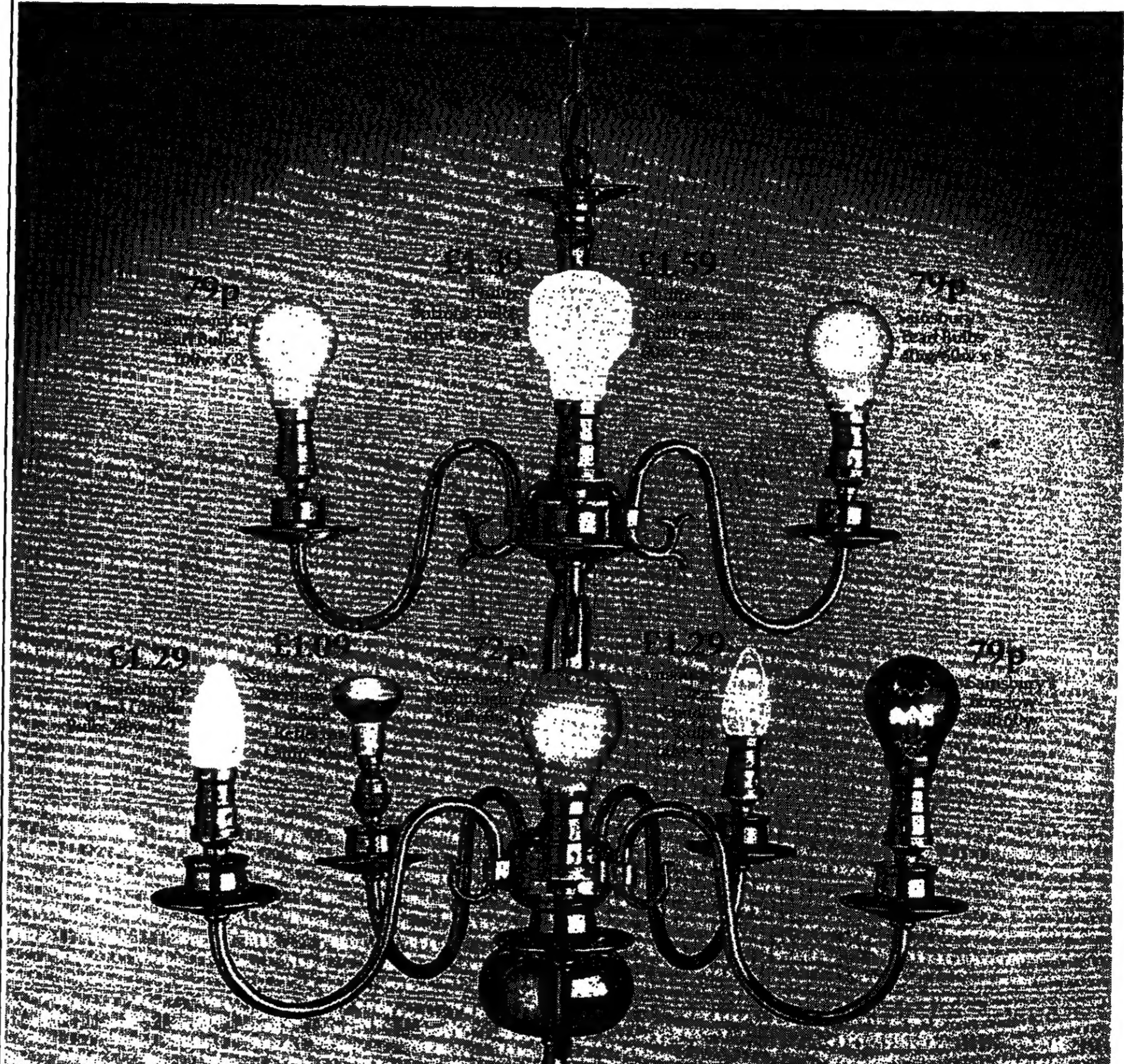
Liberalism defended

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

Lending American intellectuals yesterday made public their regret that President Reagan had taken the lead in vilifying liberalism, "one of our oldest and noblest traditions".

In a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times* the 63 signatories said that Mr Reagan continued to make "liberal" and "liberalism" terms of opprobrium. "We are deeply concerned about the erosion and debasement of American values and American traditions that our country has long cherished," the advertisement said.

In the current presidential campaign, Republicans, including President Reagan, have used the word "liberal" as a pejorative term in denouncing the Democratic presidential candidate, Mr Michael Dukakis. The signatories included Professor J.K. Galbraith, the economist, Mr Robert McNamara, a former Defence Secretary and former president of the World Bank, and Mr Cyrus Vance, a former Secretary of State.



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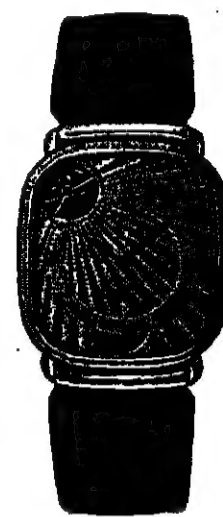


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Audemars Piguet and Asprey are proud to present these five pieces, each engraved with number 1, each being the first of their kind, in platinum.



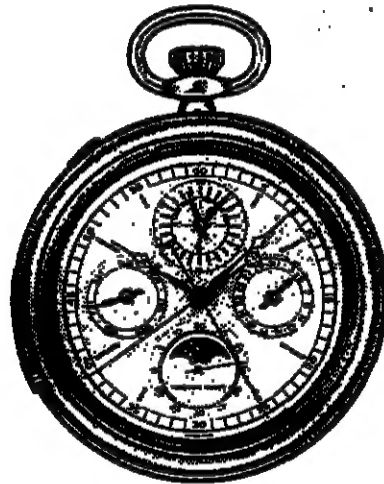
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Algerians' new political freedom

Riots jolt moderates into pressing for wider reform

By Susan MacDonald

Echoing the violent sentiments of the rioters who earlier this month smashed the party's headquarters, the strict government-the official newspaper, *Moudjahid*, in an editorial yesterday attacked the ruling National Liberation Front as being obstructive to progress and responsible for much of the country's ills.

The party, formed as a national body at independence, has been the sole political party in Algeria for the past 26 years.

Yesterday's unprecedented attack on *Moudjahid* came after a presidential announcement the previous day that a second referendum on revisiting the role of the all-dominant party would be held in the New Year.

A first referendum will next week seek to reinforce the presidential system for the first time making the Prime Minister responsible to Parliament and not to the President.

Whether President Chadli Benjedid will be able to carry through his reform programme, or even remain President, will not become clear until the ruling party congress in about six weeks.

In announcing the two referendums so quickly after the rioting, the President is moving to take advantage of the calls for reform coming from different parts of the civilian population.

Never in its 26 years of independence has Algeria been in such turmoil. The profound shock induced by the deaths of

hundreds of young people killed by army bullets during the rioting, and the well-documented reports of the sadistic torture of those rounded up by the Army, has galvanized teachers, doctors, journalists and students, among others, to form independent professional associations and to voice their anger at the omnipresent ruling party.

Many Algerians are a part of a generation at what has happened. Whole sections of the population, who for many years have been silent, have suddenly found a voice.

Events inconceivable just last month are now taking place. A university

In the general outcry, the National Front and the Army have remained silent.

Professors meeting heard the testimony of one of those tortured by the Army. He broke down when he said: "I was tortured just along the corridor from where my father was tortured by the French during our war for independence."

University students went on hunger strike to demand the release of those still in prison following the rioting.

and, although after the rioting the local press began to campaign against "excesses" of the regime, *Moudjahid* has refused to report the tales of torture and complained of being gagged.

The government-recognized Algerian

Human Rights League, which in the past functioned because it did not rock the boat, is now in the forefront of calls for inquiries into the arrests and torture.

Amid the general outcry, Front and the Army have remained silent. Both have been discredited by the rioting, the first because its long-standing corruption and patronage system put a stranglehold on society, and the Army for the way it used live ammunition to break up demonstrations.

It is factions within these groups that have provided the greatest obstacles to the reforms against corruption and patronage in the public sector that President Chadli wants to push through.

The rioting this month cleared a path for the President to go into action on reforms that had been blocked previously by front officials afraid of losing their power.

Next week's referendum gives greater powers to Parliament, known until now as no more than a rubber-stamp institution, with the proviso that if the Prime Minister is defeated twice, then Parliament itself must be dissolved.

These constitutional reforms will then be reinforced in the second referendum, which limits the powers of the ruling party and allows non-party candidates to contest elections.

But President Chadli has stopped short of declaring a multi-party system, because that would invite a struggle for power and privileges by clans and regional groupings and could bring the Islamic fundamentalists to power.

Perón return worries opposition

From Michael Llanos, Buenos Aires



Señora Perón being greeted by well-wishers in Buenos Aires after her return to Argentina, where she was once President.

The surprise return to Argentina of Señora María Estela Perón has thrown the country's main opposition party into disarray just before the Peronist presidential candidate leaves for Europe on a tour designed to improve the party's image abroad.

Señora Perón, the widow of the late President Juan Domingo Perón and herself President of Argentina between 1974-76, arrived here from her home in Spain on Tuesday to the surprise of Peronist leaders, including the party's presidential candidate, Señor Carlos Menem.

The two do not get along, and Señor Menem's aides have suggested that President Alfonsín and the ruling Radical Party planned Señora Perón's visit in an attempt to divide the Peronists just as rival factions were reaching agreement in the run up to the May 1989 elections.

Señora Perón said on arrival that during her indefinite stay she would probably meet President Alfonsín, "a friend whom I admire fondly".

But Señora Perón evaded questions on whether she would meet Señor Menem and whether she supported his candidacy.

Señor Menem, for his part, said of the prospects of a meeting: "She knows where to find me."

Previously, Señora Perón refused to receive Señor Menem at her Madrid home, and he had to leave his

bonquet of flowers tied to a tree outside her residence.

Señora Perón has been living in Spain since being released by the military regime which removed her from office in March 1976. The second wife of Juan Perón, she assumed the presidency in July, 1974, after his death.

Señora Perón's presence here has reawakened the memories of many Argentines who lived through her presidency, when left-wing terrorists and right-wing death squads ruled the streets.

The Peronists fear that her visit is a tactic of the ruling Radical Party, whose candidate, Señor Eduardo Angeloz, is far behind Señor Menem in opinion polls.

Señor Menem, who uses the same populist style which brought General Perón to power, is to leave on Saturday for a two-week European tour. This visit is intended to improve his standing in Europe after his campaign promises, which include "huge wage increases" at a time when Argentina is broke, and "the expropriation of British assets" as a means of putting pressure on Britain on the Falklands issue.

The Carlos Pellegrini Foundation, a conservative Argentine think tank, recently reported that Señor Menem's image in the United States and Western Europe is "very negative". His first stop is to be Spain, followed by France, West Germany, and Italy.

Missile updating imperils Nato's nuclear arms cuts

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A Nato military plan to withdraw unilaterally a significant number of nuclear battlefield weapons from Europe is in jeopardy because of growing political opposition within the alliance to American and British demands to modernize existing short-range missiles.

Nato defence ministers, gathered in The Netherlands today for a Nuclear Planning Group meeting, are expected to be warned that the removal of many of the nuclear-tipped artillery shells would have to be contingent on a satisfactory modernization programme being agreed.

General John Galvin, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, supports the move towards a smaller arsenal of up-to-date, longer-range missiles. If the existing missiles were modernized, the nuclear stockpile in Europe could be reduced from the present 4,600 warheads to about 2,700.

However, this "quality for quantity" exchange is still threatening to cause damaging divisions within the alliance. Belgium has indicated that it would not be in favour of any decision at this stage on introducing new nuclear systems into Europe. West Germany

many that had to be taken off a deployment decision. Greece has always been adamantly opposed.

General Galvin will remind the defence ministers of the Schreier meeting that his highest priority is to find a longer-range replacement for the ageing Lance missile.

The 280-mile range weapon, which is now deployed in Europe and due to come out of service by the mid-1990s. But General Galvin, who has drawn up his own list of requirements for maintaining credible nuclear forces in Europe, is still waiting for political backing.

The general is prepared to withdraw a large number of Nato's nuclear-tipped artillery shells provided he gets what he wants on the modernization issue.

Nato's High Level Group, a special committee of military and political specialists which has been examining the issue in detail, will be presenting a report to the defence ministers outlining the steps that need to be taken in the next five years to replace the force up to date.

The modernization of Nato's short-range nuclear forces has been the most divisive issue since the signing of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty last December, eliminating all ground-launched missiles with a range of between 812 miles and 3,433 miles.

General Galvin wants a Lance "follow-on" and a new stand-off air-launched weapon to replace the old free-fall nuclear bombs, so that strike aircraft can drop their payloads several hundred miles away from their targets. The US is studying replacement missiles for Lance and the free-fall bombs.

Backing for Sihanouk

Britain yesterday emphasized its support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the person best placed to lead Cambodia out of its 10-year civil war (Andrew McEwan writes).

In two days the Prince, who led Cambodia from 1953 to 1970, has held talks in London with Mrs Thatcher and with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary. Prince Sihanouk is to hold a third round of talks in Paris on November 5-6 with Mr Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Phnom Penh Government, which was installed by Vietnam. The Khmer Rouge has been invited to participate but has not yet replied.

Andean crash

Lima (Reuters) - Aeroperu, the state airline, said that 12 people, including a Swiss missionary priest, were killed minutes after a F28 Fokker passenger plane took off from Juliaca, high in the Andes. Fifty-two people survived.

Briton held

Rome (Reuters) - Police in Spain and Italy have seized 120lb of pure Colombian cocaine and arrested 10 people, including a Briton, in an operation against drug smugglers.

MP accused

Florence (Reuters) - Signor Massimo Abbattangelo, a far-right Italian former MP, was charged with multiple homicide over a 1984 train bomb attack which killed 16 people, judicial sources said.

Prize draw

Tallahassee (AP) - Two sisters who work on an assembly line in Florida claimed a Lotto jackpot worth more than \$31.5 million (£18 million) from a \$1 ticket and said that they would split the prize.

Yacht charges

Sydney - The parents of David Blenkinsop, the British yachtsman shot by an Indonesian policeman then allegedly pushed overboard, were officially notified that two policemen are to be charged with their son's murder and the shooting of his fiancée.

Rebel ambush

Bogotá (AP) - Talks on ending a general strike in Colombia collapsed as left-wing guerrillas ambushed and killed nine policemen and four election officials.

Nuns rethink

New York - Rebel nuns barricaded in a New Jersey Carmelite monastery to protest at changes in their cloistered lifestyle withdrew a lawsuit against church authorities a day after it was filed.

Grand scale

Sydney (AP) - A group of Aboriginal businessmen, taking advantage of the success of the *Crocodile Dundee* films, opened a Aus\$12 million (£3.6 million) hotel shaped like a giant crocodile.

The Queen in Spain.

At the same time as the Queen returns from Spain this week, Hello! brings you spectacular, full-colour, step by step coverage of her historic state visit.

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- Mariel Hemingway talks about the change motherhood has made to her life.
- Lesley-Anne Down gives an extra-special birthday party for her son.
- The Duchess of York's last days in Australia.
- George Peppard finds a new lease of life after his fourth divorce.

HELLO!



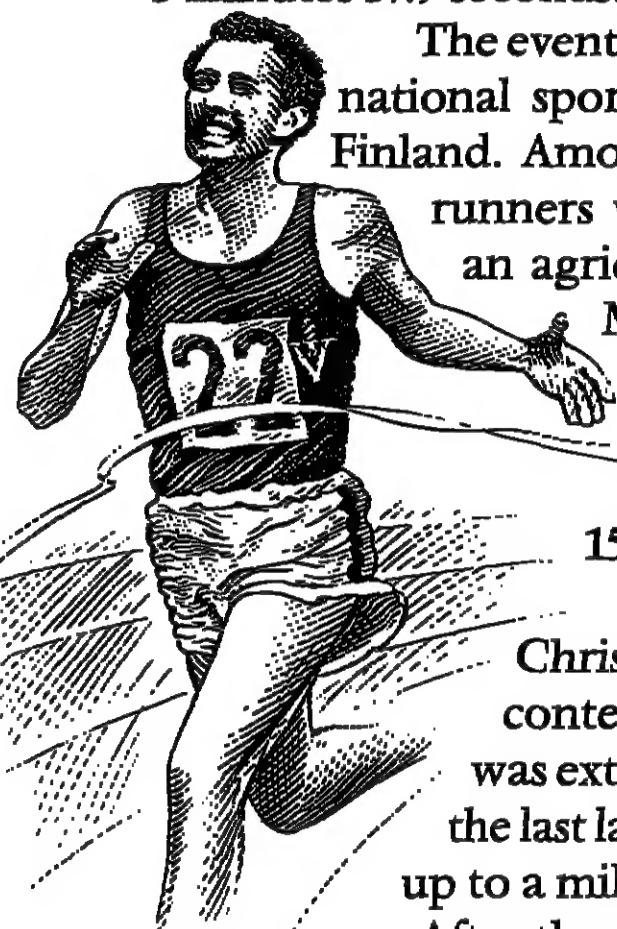
Colourful news this week and every week.

ANONYMITY AND HOW TO AVOID IT.

Commitment

ATHLETE TAKES SIX WEEKS TO RUN 4 MINUTE MILE.

On the 21st June 1954 the 4 minute mile was shattered in a record-breaking time of 3 minutes 57.9 seconds.



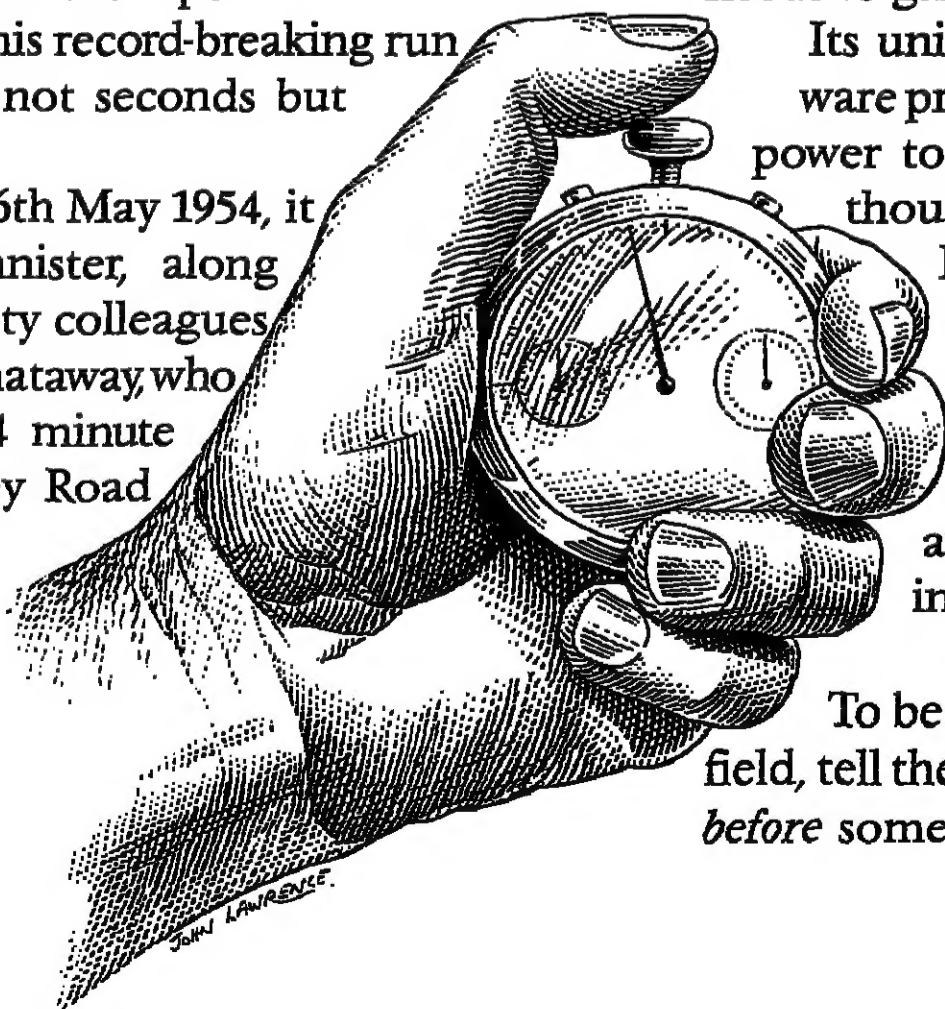
The event took place at an international sports meeting in Turku, Finland. Among the field of six runners was one John Landy, an agricultural student from Melbourne, Australia, who had made the long trip from home to attack the 1500 metres record.

At the request of Chris Chataway, the British contender, the 400m track was extended nine metres on the last lap to bring the distance up to a mile and the race began.

After three very fast and keenly contested laps, the record was in sight and with a magnificent last lap of 62 seconds Landy flashed past the tape.

But despite his record-breaking run Landy finished not seconds but weeks too late.

For on the 6th May 1954, it was Roger Bannister, along with his university colleagues Brasher and Chataway, who first broke the 4 minute mile at the Iffley Road track in Oxford.



The Oxbridge trio were joyously victorious and Britain was now established at the forefront of middle distance running.

Alas for John Landy, the new record was surpassed and like many subsequent record breakers his achievement faded with the passing of time.

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Bannister
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SPECTRUM

Putting himself in the pantheon

THE TIMES PROFILE

DAVID HOCKNEY

In 1960, when he was a student at the Royal College of Art, David Hockney had a problem with his work. He was unhappy with the prevailing orthodoxy of modern art — this demanded big, abstract paintings, heavily influenced by the most admired American artists of the time: Rothko, Pollock and de Kooning. He found the style "too barren" so he took his problem to a fellow student, an American called R.B. Kitaj.

"I'd talk to him about my interests," Hockney has recalled. "I was a keen vegetarian then, and interested in politics a bit, and he'd say to me why don't you paint those subjects? And I thought, it's quite right that's what I'm complaining about. I'm not doing anything that's from me. So that was the way I broke it. I began to paint those pictures."

In fact, by Kitaj's later estimation, Hockney's abstract period lasted about two weeks. With a characteristic Bradford literariness, he had rejected the whole idea of non-figurative painting on the basis that it was not actually "about" anything at all.

But this moment of rebellion was more than just a rarefied aesthetic decision taken within the self-involved confines of the RCA. It was the moment of the creation of the most successful artistic persona in the postwar world. Hockney's key remark was: "I'm not doing anything that's from me." From that point on his work was to flow directly from himself to become the invariably recognizable landscape of brightly-lit, gorgeously-coloured pleasure.

Abstraction had represented a cerebral anonymity. But Hockney's ideal was of an art romantically identified with the personality of the artist. Born and educated in Bradford, his early life had provided him with little more than the familiar, circumscribed trappings of the English provincial working class.

In addition he was a homosexual and, like Joe Orton, his Sixties contemporary from Leicester, he was to use his pursuit of his own sexuality as an element in his art, a gesture against the inhibited life of the provincial city. But, unlike Orton, Hockney was to celebrate the alternative life rather than lament the bourgeois original.

Hockney was born in Bradford in 1937. His father was a pacifist and Hockney followed his example by becoming a conscientious objector. He was allowed to work in hospitals in lieu of National Service in the years 1957 to 1959. Between 1953 and 1957 he had studied at Bradford College of Art and he went to the RCA in 1959.

His success was almost immediate. His technical gifts combined with his determination not to be

trapped within any one orthodoxy made him a popular as well as an artistic success. As a gesture against the old rigidities of late modernism, his first show at the college was called "Demonstrations of Versatility" and, in 1961 after a visit to New York, he dyed his hair blond and, with his gold lamé jacket and shopping bag, became one of the many strolling, stylish icons of the Sixties. He won the RCA's Gold Medal on graduation in 1962.

Through those years both the style and the personality became a clear enough statement that the artist was at one with the glittering street poses of the pop stars. But also there was the Hockney character itself. He has always spoken in flat, master-of-the-Yorkshire of himself and his art with a disarming lack of mystification and pomposity.

During the RCA years his paintings had moved from a very English realism, through abstraction into the commercial imagery of pop. He was by no means the first pop artist. Throughout the Fifties artists like Richard Hamilton and Eduardo Paolozzi had been evolving new forms and meanings from the detritus of an urban, industrialized world. But Hockney and Kitaj were to become known as second wave pop. They were to rely more on paint than the new techniques of silk-screen printing and they were to prove a good deal less academic than the first wave.

And, on leaving the RCA, Hockney was to take the imagery of pop one step further. In September 1963 *The Sunday Times* sent him to Egypt and then, at the end of that year, he moved to Los Angeles, a city that remains his home to this day. It was in these bright, sharply-coloured landscapes that he was to discover his utterly distinctive touch. In a series of paintings, first in Egypt and then, most famously, in Los Angeles, he created a world that was to remain his own.

The California paintings of boys, swimming pools, palm trees and slick, rectilinear architecture became the pop icons of the age. They defined a way of life, a landscape of pleasure, far removed from the narrow horizons of Bradford. Their subject matter

was provided by the artist's own autobiography, by his friends, his travels, even his furniture. Hockney had found an art that flowed solely from himself.

In some ways his work to this day, 25 years later, reflects this same romantic position, a fact that has led to the charge that Hockney's art has never really developed. Certainly his paintings have changed in all superficial respects, his critics will say, and he has experimented widely with photography, printing and theatrical design. But the essential Hockney has remained static, generating only cosmetic changes in his work.

His interpretation was to lead the art critic Robert Hughes to comment: "Given the context in which his popularity mushroomed in the 1970s, it is no wonder that Hockney, the Cole Porter of figurative painting, should have been so often and so exaggeratedly taken for his Mozart." The point being that the artist, like the sun-drenched landscapes he loved, was all surface, a brilliant composer of variations on a single theme.

It is clear from the work of the later Sixties onwards that Hockney himself had seen the danger. The critic Edward Lucie-Smith explained the crisis he faced. "Soon, the precarious poise of these early works was threatened. Hockney's painting became increasingly dry, increasingly preoccupied with the wish to be realistic... Eventually Hockney found realism confining."

From that period Hockney began to work on illustrations for the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, for the poems of Cavafy and, later, of Wallace Stevens. In addition he self-consciously began to relate his work, via both theatrical commission and painting, to a personal artistic tradition, a pantheon of greats and included Mozart, Stravinsky and, most importantly, Picasso. Picasso led Hockney to a new awareness of the achievements of modernist art in general and of cubism in particular that was to inspire his late photo-montages. In these scenes were remade from a vast number of Polaroid photographs to produce a kind of mechanical cubism, though one that was always executed with Hockney's lavish and seductive taste. Such inputs over the last 20

years have been clear attempts by Hockney to insert additional layers of interest into his work in response to the enticing danger of the lovely but static calm which always threatened to overwhelm his Los Angeles canvases. They are, of course, a little too contrived to quite answer the criticisms. But then the criticisms themselves may have been missing the point.

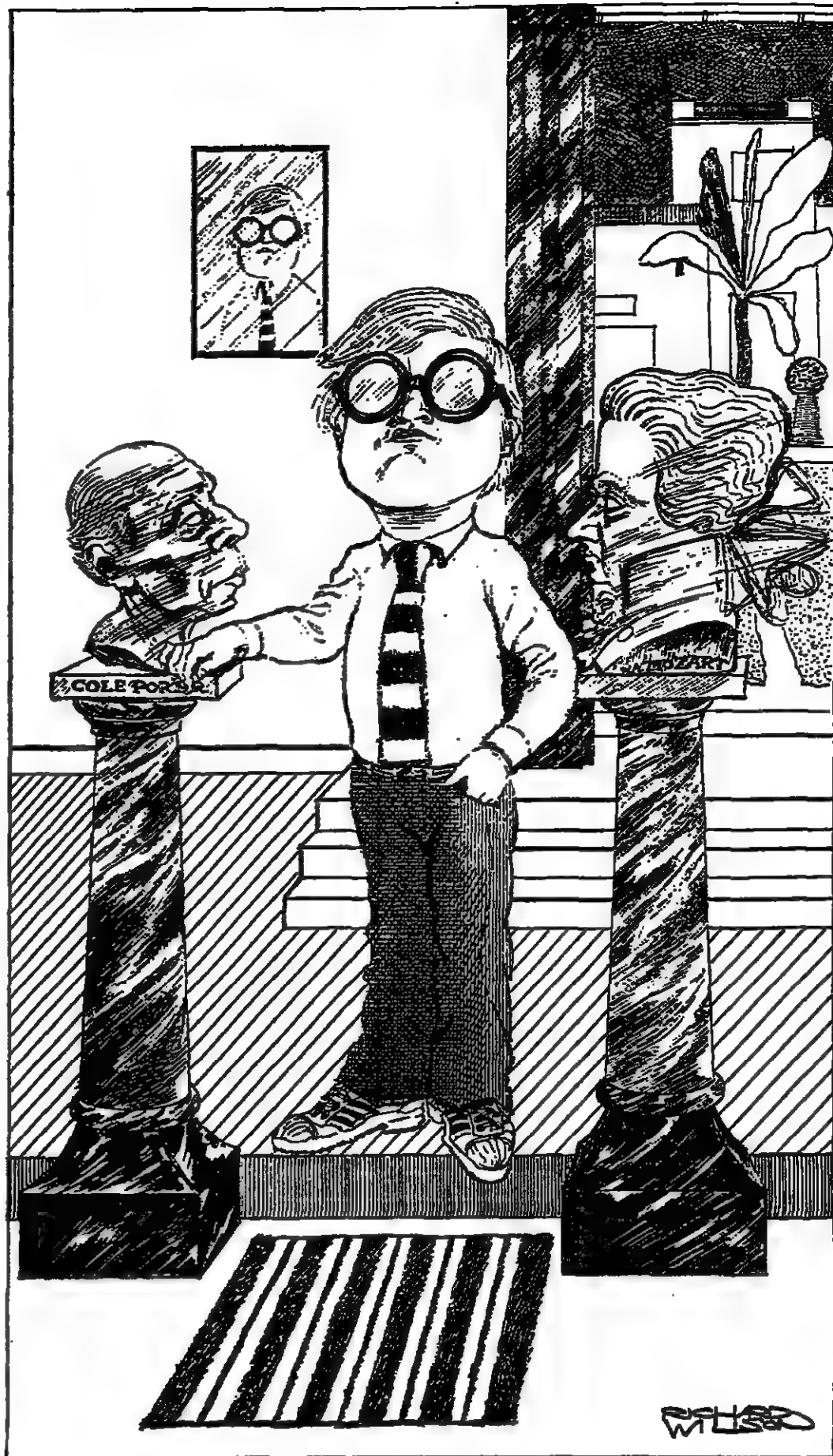
For Hockney moved incredibly quickly to his mature style. He produced images of colour and beauty with, apparently, little of the romantic anguish often associated with the artistic effort. The clarity and certainty of his style meant that it instantly remade the world — people sitting blandly in arm chairs, office blocks with palm trees and, of course, swimming pools can hardly now be seen but through an imaginative lens manufactured by Hockney. The increasing certainty and variety of his technique have given him a seemingly limitless series of tools with which he has been able to "Hockneyize" the world, to remake Egypt and Los Angeles, though not, in the end, Bradford.

Hockney's former fellow student, R.B. Kitaj, will in all probability come to be seen as the greater artist of the two. But Hockney will undoubtedly survive as first the creator and then the chronicler of an imaginary world that, for perverse reasons of history and psychology, could only have emerged from the bizarre collision of an amiable, owl-like working class Bradford boy with the hard, revealing sunlight of California and the opulent, composed interiors of the wealthy.

Bryan Appleyard

BIOGRAPHY

1937: Born July 9 in Bradford.
1953-57: Studies at Bradford School of Art.
1957-58: Works in hospitals to fulfil National Service obligation.
1959-62: Studies at Royal College of Art, London. Graduates and wins the RCA's Gold Medal.
1963: Travels to Egypt for *The Sunday Times*. Makes first trip to Los Angeles.
1964: Moves to Los Angeles. Makes first swimming pool painting. Begins making instant (Polaroid) photographs and working with acrylics.
1965-67: Teaches at University of California, Los Angeles.
1968: First large double portrait. Moves to London.
1973-75: Lives in Paris.
1978: Returns to Los Angeles.
1986-87: Designs Los Angeles Music Center opera production of *Tristan und Isolde*.
October 1988: Retrospective exhibition at Tate Gallery.



Impressive, but not Impressionist

Ever since the 1870s, when a critic coined the term to describe Monet's "Impression: Sunrise", Impressionism has been the province of the French. But now we are being urged to peer beyond their prism of colour. There, obscured by the dazzle, is a band of British bohemians who were painting in Paris at that time, but have never been acknowledged.

This story of lost and found genius is told in a bumper book just published by Studio Fine Art publications and distributed to all major book outlets: *British Impressionism: a Garden of Bright Images* (E55) is bursting with lavish colour illustrations "by kind permission" of patrons

such as the Queen, the Tate Gallery, and (in the case of the prettiest ones) of a private cove called David Messum.

The problem is that, although it is not made clear in any of the 300 pages, Messum has a vested interest in publishing the book and its contents, being both publisher and art dealer. So why should we believe the claims made by his author, Laura Wortley?

On face value, the book comes across as a worthy if sometimes wordy exercise. It provides a useful compendium on art, both British and French, from the Pre-Raphaelites onwards, throwing in Whistler and John Singer Sargent (both Americans) on the way. But it does not



Sarah Jane Checkland

address the question begged by the book's title: in what respect were British artists "Impressionists" in the true meaning of the word? This could be because, although competent and often fine, the work in question does not

have an innovative greatness. It is pure commercial convenience to bandy the term Impressionism in their direction. The only terms under which British artists could justifiably be categorized as Impressionists would be if they had participated actively in the movement while it was happening.

But it emerges from between the lines that, although British artists went in droves to France when Monet was in his prime, it was more to enjoy the freedom of the *atelier* system rather than to seek inspiration from the avant-garde. Unaware or uninterested in the *Salon des Refusés*, most of these young gentlemen spent their time in inferior studios, copying the sombre style of Barbizon School painters like Daubigny.

One is even quoted dismissing the *Salon des Refusés* as "a series of 'dead' paintings", while another (John Lavery) says: "We foreigners kept together so much by going to the same cafes."

In vain, the text is laden with weighty-sounding names such as Wilfred de Glehn, Albert Chevalier Taylor, Standford Fletcher, Frank Rodilly, T.C. Cogh. Apart from occasional encounters with the masters, they seemed to have spent most of their free time lurking about, rather than in serious discussion. Subsequent "movements" covered by the book, such as the Newlyn school, Bloomsbury group, and Vorticists, suffer the double handicap of being neither contemporaries with the French Impressionists nor "Impressionist" in application of colour and concept of light.

But David Messum, who candidly admits a "totally vested interest" in the paintings, said yesterday that "in my view, it is totally right to use the word 'Impressionism' as regards British painting. In fact, we probably have more right to it than the French, due to our landscape tradition. George Clausen (1852-1944) gave lectures on it before the term was bandied around."

But any reader who persists with the text is unlikely to be convinced. This is sad because, as the range of

illustrations shows, British Modern art deserves reassessment. But rather than gaining credence on the back of Impressionism (currently the most lucrative word in the art market), it should be appreciated for its own merits (idiosyncrasy; a continuing feeling for landscape).

Usually associated with conceited poets determined to see their pearly words in print, "ventriloquising" has for some time presented a dilemma for visual art publishers. Although, for reasons of editorial integrity, top houses such as Thames & Hudson prefer arm's length policies with dealers, they are often dependent on them for the free supply of illustrations. For this reason, many publications become hybrid ventures between interested parties.

As regards contemporary artists, many valid subjects are turned down because of cost, and they must be underwritten by dealers to be published at all. In such a category are the books under the label of the dealer Anthony D'Offay. To his credit, however, *Old World, New World*, the book he has just published on Richard Long, states clearly that it is published by the Anthony D'Offay Gallery.

"There is too little art book publishing going on, and artists have had a fairly raw deal," an editor at Thames & Hudson said this week. He believes, in general, that so long as a book results, the end justifies the means.

The controversy over whether British Impressionism exists or not must continue until next May, when Phaidon publishes a book (one hopes impartial) on the subject by Kenneth McConkey, head of department of History and Criticism Studies at Newcastle Polytechnic.

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TOMORROW

The winner of the Innovator of the Year award, jointly sponsored by The Times and Barclays Bank, will be announced next month. Tomorrow The Times looks at the five entries which have reached the short list

Whichever way you look at it

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The latest Sureshot from Canon is the Ace. With over thirteen million Sureshots built so far, it has quite a reputation to live up to. As you would expect it uses the latest technology to achieve the finest results. With autofocus, auto-lead, auto film speed setting, auto wind-on, rewind and autofocus in a new easy-to-hold teardrop shape. Two unique features have been added to the Canon Sureshot Ace: a tiny detachable infra-red remote control unit for shooting from a distance, and a second viewfinder located on top of the camera for intriguing low or high angle shots. The result is the Canon Sureshot Ace. It is, in every respect, a Sureshot.

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HEALTH

A fight to the death

Evidence is growing that a fighting spirit can help prolong the life of cancer sufferers. Victoria McKee investigates the case of one patient who is determined to stay alive — and kicking

Eighteen months ago Kate Matthews was told she would almost certainly die within 12 weeks from advanced pancreatic cancer which had spread to her liver. Her doctors warned that only 5 per cent of patients with such a diagnosis could hope to survive more than a year. Matthews determined to be one of that 5 per cent.

"I wasn't arguing with the weight of medical evidence against me — I just wanted to outlive the prognosis," she says. "As a fit and active person of 40, I wasn't prepared to accept it."

Matthews, a single parent, is headmistress of St Leonard's nursery school, in Bloomsbury, and her remarkable struggle against disease is the subject of a television programme titled *I Want to Live* tonight. Her fight has been based on a mixture of bloody-mindedness and self-indulgence which should encourage those who fear the only road to recovery is a spiritual and abstemious one. She took up flying ("I shall still aim to die hang-gliding at 93"), and bought herself a bright red mac ("instead of a designer shroud").

"We're not brought up to give ourselves pats and strokes and bunches of flowers," she says, "but self-indulgence comes pretty high up on the list of learning to care for yourself. I also felt better when I started becoming interested in malicious gossip again — it's always been one of my habits."

It was this unorthodox attitude to illness that inspired BBC producer Joanna Clinton Davis to make tonight's documentary. She says: "Kate didn't have a radiant glow of goodness about her — people could really relate to her. I felt, because her healing methods are so unspiritual: shopping, gossiping, self-

indulgence. This is not a film about miracle cures — it's about how you cope with potentially tragic information and keep your family going and yourself together and push death as far back as you can."

Matthews would undoubtedly fall into the category of "fighter" as defined recently by two cancer researchers, Maggie Watson and Steven Greer, of the Cancer Research Campaign's Psychological Medicine Group, divided breast cancer patients into four types. There are the "hopeless and helpless", the "stoic accepters", the "deniers", and those with a fighting spirit. Recently a new category has been added, somewhere between the stoic accepters and the deniers — "those with an anxious preoccupation with the disease".

Watson says: "There is evidence that both those with a fighting spirit and the deniers live longer than the others. Longer term, 15-year studies show that the fighting group does better than the deniers." The Watson-Greer MAC Scale (Mental Adjustment to Cancer Scale) was published earlier this year and is now being used to assess all cancer patients.

When Matthews was referred to a hospice ("a real downer") she told them she was going to go to a homeopathic hospital and the Bristol Cancer Help Centre. "The nurse's attitude was 'Why bother?' I didn't feel I could talk to them about contraceptives because it seemed such a living thing to do, not a dying thing to do."

It was Matthews who approached the BBC. She sent in a training film which had been made of her in session with her psychotherapist. "It was sufficient to see that this was a woman of great character," Davis says. "She's very assertive. If she



High hope: Kate Matthews, who tackles disease with a combination of bloody-mindedness and self-indulgence

wants something, she'll go out and get it."

Matthews is now "laid low by a virus that's really knocked her out", Davis says, "so she's not feeling as buoyant as she had hoped." Does this mean *I Want to Live* holds out false hopes? "No," Davis says. "Whatever happens, Kate really has something to communicate. She's courageous and funny but has her depressions and doesn't deny them."

Dr Michael Weizler, full-time doctor at the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, who treated Matthews, demands: "What is false hope? People come here 10 days before their deaths but can dramatically improve the quality of their life in those 10 days. The focus is not on the length of Kate Matthews's life, but the quality."

Weizler condemns the concept of giving patients a specific survival time — and commends an article by Dr Peter Maguire in the *British Medical Journal* earlier this month counselling doctors never to do so. Maguire, a psychiatrist, is director of the Cancer Research Campaign's Psychological Medicine Group at Christie Hospital, Manchester. He says: "I don't think it helps to tell someone they've got three months to live. It tends to polarize people into those who say 'Sod you — I'll prove you wrong', and those who give up. There is some evidence that those who say 'I'll prove you wrong' do best. But they may be left with the sense of living on borrowed

'I felt better when I became interested in malicious gossip again — it has always been one of my habits'

time, which isn't very comfortable." Maguire does not believe in a "cancer personality", or that there are merely five categories of sufferers. He says of the work of Watson and Greer: "That's too simplistic. We believe people are more flexible than that, and we tailor approaches to individuals. While I can predict quite accurately who's going to be depressed, I can never correctly predict who's going to survive."

Psychologist Dr John Hegarty, of Keele University, has pioneered at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary one of the few hospital-run support groups for cancer patients. He says: "It is very arrogant to deny the self-help element of treating cancer."

Hegarty, a member of the British Psycho-Social Oncology Group, which concerns itself with the psychological aspects of survival, says that "you and your cancer can live together. Patients who come to me in a similar position to Kate

Matthews ask 'Have I got a hope?' and I always say that, while scientifically there is no evidence that the mind can beat cancer, there's not necessarily a scientific explanation for everything." But he also, sadly, observes how many noble fighters die "while some very negative people creak on for years — as miserable as sin".

Dr James Thompson, of the University of London, a leading authority on the psychology of survival, is not convinced of the power of positive thinking. "My initial reaction is that I'd love to believe that if I was given a diagnosis of a terminal illness I could make a difference by going out and walking — but I don't."

He suggests that, perhaps, we should ask: "Why do we pick up such stories as that of Kate Matthews? It's like the one about the man who locked himself in a hotel room with a pile of comic videos and laughed his way to health. It becomes a factoid — part of the growing mythology about cancer. Most of it, I fear, is candy-floss."

But whatever the wisdom of doctors giving a precise prognosis to patients who are facing death, Matthews is certain of one thing. She says in the programme: "Little Nell may have died beautifully in a Dickens novel but I have no intention of going that way. I'll go out kicking and screaming... leaving a few ripples."

● *I Want to Live*, 40 Minutes (BBC, today at 9.30pm).

Killing pain with a £7 pill

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttardford

The 75 per cent of women who at some time or another suffer from such severe vaginal thrush that they are forced to seek medical advice will welcome the news that an apparently safe oral treatment, Diflucan (fluconazole), has recently been released for use in Britain.

Thrush, due to the yeast *Candida albicans*, is a nuisance from the cradle to the grave but the genital symptoms, inflammation, irritation, swelling, discharge and pain during intercourse or on passing urine, are so memorable, particularly if recurrent, that it is frequently forgotten that the same organism is often responsible for other troubles, ranging from nappy rash and infected wounds in babies to sore gums beneath false teeth and inflamed skin under the pendulous breasts of old age.

The manufacturer, Pfizer, claims that Diflucan is as potent, if not more, than ketoconazole, the preparation which, although the safe basis of a new anti-dandruff shampoo, Nizoral, and an effective cream, has too many side-effects for regular oral use in all but the most serious infections.

Pessaries tend to leak for days and are so messy that research has shown that half the women never complete the prescribed course. Oral therapy is not only more acceptable but appears to be more efficient. Diflucan is not cheap. A single 150mg capsule may be all that is necessary to clear a genital infection, but it will cost more than £7 — twice as much as a single dose of Canestan clotrimazole pessary, the most favoured method of treatment at present.

Diflucan is also marketed as a 50mg capsule which can be prescribed for longer courses, one daily for seven to 14 days, for the treatment of oral, pharyngeal and rectal thrush. The occasional side-effects, when they do occur, are mild and well tolerated: the patient may occasionally notice headaches (under 2 per cent), abdominal discomfort or nausea.

Men as well as women suffer from thrush, which is easy to diagnose when the condition causes severe inflammation and ulceration of the penis, but may be missed when the irritation is only mild and inflammation non-allowing. If the symptoms follow intercourse within a matter of a few hours, they are probably due to a man's allergy to the yeast which his partner is harbouring, possibly in too small a quantity to give her actual symptoms because only one third of women who have thrush have symptoms at any one time.

There is at present a trial running in a London teaching hospital to find out the best way to use Diflucan prophylactically so as to help all those women whose life has been made a misery by recurrent thrush. Other trials are taking place to study its role in the treatment of fungal skin diseases.

Whether Diflucan or pessaries are prescribed, it is still necessary to take the well-established precautions against thrush. Weight should be kept down, tight jeans avoided, cotton pants worn rather than jibbs. Careful drying after washing is necessary, as is scrupulous attention to hygiene without being so enthusiastic that the skin becomes irritated by excessive scrubbing or by the use of strong or scented soaps.

Other areas of the body where the yeast may lurk and also be investigated and treated where necessary, particularly the mouth, umbilicus, rectum, and the skin between the fingers and the toes. Recent Belgian research has shown that wearing an IUD makes it four times more likely that a woman will suffer from thrush. Any patient with thrush must also remember that in 10 per cent of diabetics it is the presenting complaint.

Changing of the guards' armour

The crowds watching the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace last month are unlikely to notice that the uniforms of the Household Cavalry are fractionally different from those worn by the guard to the Queen's father or grandfather. From time immemorial, the cuirass, the metal chest armour, was available from Quartermaster's Stores in only three sizes, small, medium or large. But the present-day trooper is not only taller but also, slimmer than his forebears, and some troopers are now so slight that they would find it difficult to stretch with their right hand over the bulky old-fashioned cuirass to draw their sword from the scabbard hanging on their left. Brigadier James Emson, formerly Silver-Saddles, the colonel commanding the Household Cavalry, says that four or five years ago it became necessary to extend the three traditional sizes and institute another. Fitting suitable for the shape of contemporary youth, whose shoulders had not been broadened, nor his physique fashioned, by years down the mines or working on farms. Comprehensive schooling just did not have the same effect on nature.

Research workers at the Royal Free Hospital in London have also been studying the changing shape of British manhood. Their figures contradict the established view that changing height can no longer be related to social class. They have shown that the manual worker is still, on average, shorter than the non-manual worker, even though both are now taller than their fathers were (each generation tends to be an inch taller than the previous one). According to the *British Medical Journal*, the height of the British population has increased by 1.5 inches since 1945. The increase is not only in height but also in weight. The average weight of a British man has increased by 10 lb since 1945. The increase in weight is not only in height but also in weight. The average weight of a British man has increased by 10 lb since 1945.

Differences in height are likely to be due to a variety of factors. As well as diet, in particular the amount of protein and vitamins, the amount of sleep a child has is important, more growth hormones are produced when at rest than when up and about. So that the street-wise lad playing late at night in the amusement arcade is not going to grow as well as the public schoolboy stretched out in a dormitory bed. Finally the belief that smoking inhibits growth is not just a myth, as the age at which smoking starts is strongly biased by class.

The Royal Free team, funded by the British Heart Foundation, is also making a study of obesity; there is a regional variation in this as well as in height. Tall men are more common in the east of the country, fat men more common in Wales and Scotland.

The soft art of eastern exercise

What's non-sexist, non-ageist and rather more fun than Jane Fonda?

Jane Fonda and her clones may have added music to their workouts to relieve the tedium, but there's no disguising the essential unpleasantness of today's exercise routines.

But if you are committed to 10 minutes of physical jerks a day, then there is another way: Tai Chi Chuan, a "soft" relation of the "hard" martial arts such as Kung Fu and Tae Kwon-do. The Chinese have been practising it for hundreds if not thousands of years and English practitioners are enthusiastic. "It makes me feel more poised," said one, "it's simultaneously strengthening and calming," said another; others talk of about self-awareness, inner strength, and vital energy.

Tai Chi, like its fellow soft arts Chi Kung, Hsing I and Pa Kua, involves a series of postures and fluid movements which, combined with mental concentration, claims to exercise the whole body and refresh the mind.

The Chinese believe that it has a number of therapeutic uses, from the relief of headaches and asthma, and the reduction of hypertension, to the treatment of depression, back ache, and arthritis.

What's the evidence? Howard Reid, author of a new book on Tai Chi, says: "I used to suffer from a recurrent low back pain problem. It's greatly reduced now that I am doing the recognized exercises."

Sue Blennerhassett, a former midwife, found a Tai Chi teacher who helped her to develop the necessary physical and mental awareness. As a result she finds that she is "more settled in herself". Like many women she is attracted by Tai Chi's link with the "hard" martial arts.

"Most people who teach Tai Chi would say that you should only use it in self-defence much later, when you are very experienced. But a lot of self-defence is to do with feeling confident in yourself in a nasty situation. You need to create a sense of confidence

Sarah Jane Evans

● *The Way of Harmony: A Guide to the Soft Martial Arts*, by Howard Reid, is published by Urwin Hyman today.

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GTX 1.9 model, for instance, will take you from 0 to 60 (space permitting) in 9.9 seconds. Very bracing.

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

Odd, to be holidaying in a spot where the souvenir industry is based entirely upon liver. Generally a souvenir is a tiny building for keeping cigarettes in. A Taj Mahal, an Alpine chalet, an Arc de Triomphe, a Sydney Opera House. In the more breakable versions, you lift the roof and the tiny building plays "O Mine Papa" or "Waltzing Matilda". Alternatively, it is a tiny man for keeping cigarettes in. Shakespeare, Mozart, a beekeeper, a sumo wrestler, Sir Harry Lauder. If it comes from Brussels, unspeakable possibilities attach, quite literally, to the tiny man's accommodation of the cigarettes.

In the Périgord, however, the souvenirs are produced exclusively by geese. Every other shop window is stacked to the gunwales with elaborately constructed displays of *foie gras*. You may buy it tinned or boxed or jarred, fresh or half-cooked or cooked; you may buy it *en bloc*, or as *terrine*, or as *pâté*; you may buy it in an infinite variety of truffled elaborations; you may buy examples which have won gold medals at myriad *Foires de Foie*, or examples endorsed on the tin by talking geese. There are, as with wine, *grands marques* and *petits*; you may choose assembly-line produce or *recherché* little numbers lovingly hand-swollen by one man working in one hut, possibly only on one goose.

It is quite impossible to choose: mobs of bemused tourists amble hopelessly from shop to shop in the vain attempt to assess this offering against that. If you invite the opinions of staff or local *habitants*, acrimonious debates ensue as to relative merits, and you have to creep quietly away while the disputant gourmets are hurrying arcane liver opinions at one another and seek sanctuary in the shop across the street. Where it starts all over again.

The sheer spectacle of the towering piles conjures unanswerable questions. At a median £20 for a 200-gramme tin, how do these shops carry such immense stock? In Sarlat, while the patron was excitedly burton-boling my wife on the virtue of glazing a duck with a half-glass of warmed Montbazillac on the night prior to serving, I ran a test-count which revealed that this somewhat seedy little establishment was sitting on around £40,000 worth of poultry-gland.

Yet more imponderable, given that Sarlat alone offers about two dozen shops and is itself but one town among many, where are all the geese? The average bloated goose-liver weighs 800 grammes, or four small tins. Scribbling rapidly on the back of a postcard, I calculated that Sarlat alone — just on what was being displayed, disregarding what they had in the basement — was offering the potted remains of some 20,000 birds. Where, then, were the living geese? The most conservative extrapolation suggested that the Périgord probably contained a million of them. The countryside should have been packed with geese, the roads blocked with waddling processions, probably standing on one another's shoulders. In four days, we saw 11. This period included a night at a hilltop chateau outside Cahors which has a telescope for scanning a horizon 12 miles distant. Ten days on, my right eye still waters from a scrutiny which produced not a single goose. Furthermore, the dawns were silent. I'd thought geese cackled; I'd heard they hissed. But from a million beaks, nary a sound.

We bought half a dozen assorted tins of the stuff. Empty, they will be ideal for keeping cigarettes in.

An unanticipated pleasure on the trip was basking in the Gallic esteem in which our radiant leader is held. Especially in the aftermath of the notorious



Bruges speech, not only had I not expected rare notices like the *Figaro* leader, which declared *Encores un triangle pour La Dame de Fer!* I had never guessed at the reverence with which the ordinary Frenchman pronounces her very name. They even go to atypically xenophobic lengths to get their tongues into the unaccustomed interdental position, to avoid ending up with "Sathur". I could not recall anything like it since the days when Frenchmen would rush up to me in the street, shake my hand, and cry: "Bobby Sharltoon!"

The esteem, mind, is not political. It is the adulation of stardom, virtually irrespective of principle or action. Mrs Thatcher is, *tout simple*, the most famous woman in the world, and there is no question but that a little of the awe with which the French regard this tabloid achievement rubs off, willy-nilly, on the visiting Briton. It has not been thus for some time, possibly since Churchill, and I have to say that it is not unpleasant — whatever guilts, for whatever reasons, may go with one's sipping acquiescence in their plaudits.

Hurling homeward on the N19, we spotted a signpost to *Colombey-les-Deux-Églises*, allowed curiosity a brief detour, and, in the shadow of the enormous memorial Cross of Lorraine which commands the landscape in metaphorical echo of that earlier dominance, fell into conversation with a Frenchman who, within three sentences, was bracketing de Gaulle and Thatcher as visionary giants.

Does there spring to mind a commemorative symbol which, one day, we should erect on a green hill without the city wall of Grantham? It has not yet sprung to mine, but if you can come up with one which fits posterity's bill, there's a tin of *foie gras* in it for the winner.

I have never served on a jury, so it has been as interesting for me to read what *The Times* has had to say this week about juries and their problems as it has been to talk to people who have served on them.

If the jury system is to continue, we have to accept that jurors are not the permanent representatives of a professional caste but as close as possible to the ideal of twelve men and women good and true. By its very nature, the jury system contains chance, human foible and individual prejudice.

The Government recognizes that some risks are involved and is doing what it can to minimize them. But to suggest that the average jury is made up of a few honest citizens outvoted by a few less bigots, or largely composed of people unable or disinclined to grasp issues, is another matter. I do not believe it.

Clearly, feelings in the jury room sometimes run high. This is right when reputation as well as liberty is at stake. But the occasional scepticism and high feelings of the jury room do not necessarily mean malice. Our system requires the prosecution to prove its case "beyond reasonable doubt".

I accept that, as a con-

sequence, some guilty people may escape. That is the price we pay to be confident of not convicting the innocent.

A stark warning for any offender banking on a soft jury is contained in the simple arithmetic; in total, juries acquit only one in 16 of those sent for trial at the Crown Court.

To be sent for trial at the Crown Court is not to be judged guilty in advance, and I do not want to see a single false verdict there — in either direction.

Two big questions must be asked. First, can anyone say with any claim to accuracy what tiny fraction of that one in 16 have benefited from the failings of the jury system, rather than been saved by legitimate doubts of their guilt? Second, how exactly can one remedy those failings without risking prejudice to the innocent?

I cannot answer accurately the first question, and it is inherent

in our jury system that no one ever will be able to do so with certainty, but the Home Secretary and I can try to do everything possible to answer the second.

We are not clear whether the complaints voiced concerning the jury system are that it is a lottery — or that it shows a systematic inbuilt class bias. Are critics of the system really urging us to disqualify someone who does not have a house, someone who does not have a job, someone who does not have a professional qualification? Such proposals would over-correct the system straight back into the 19th century.

It is disquieting when, sometimes, things go wrong, and there are problems which could never be fully solved save by the abolition of the jury system. But the Government constantly seeks to improve it, and we are doing so in the following ways.

First, with the co-operation of the police, court officials will regularly check a random sample of the jury panel to see that they are not disqualified because of criminal convictions. This measure is very important. It will not make jury selection foolproof but it will mean that those disqualified by law will be much more likely to be spotted and excluded.

Second, in the 1988 Criminal Justice Act, we have ended the right of the defence to challenge potential jurors temporarily, without reason. To me, it seems deeply offensive to the average potential juror to be removed simply on his or her appearance. Our view was that peremptory challenges were being used to pick a jury thought likely to show some bias, age, class or other bias in favour of the defence. If there is a reason to challenge someone's ability to serve on the jury, then of course the defence will

continue to have that right. By this single measure, we have disposed of all concern that, for example, only young men in denim are welcome in the jury room, and anyone wearing a tie can go home.

Third, it is wrong that criminals who have narrowly avoided custody, but rather been given a suspended sentence, community service order or probation, could immediately serve as jurors, and that has been remedied.

Fourth, we want the pool of experienced women and men to be even larger, and that's why they are willing to do so; during the passage of the Criminal Justice Bill I pondered whether we should not go further, even to the age of 75.

Fifth, the intimidation of jurors. The law can deal with any real threat — the judge can stop

abuses in the courtroom; the police can protect jurors on those rare occasions when it is necessary, and those seeking or conspiring to pervert the course of justice can be convicted of an offence.

But it remains a fact that some jurors feel understandably anxious about standing up and doing a public duty which can be difficult and sometimes distasteful. Sensitive treatment by court officials is part of the answer; designing new courts so the jury box is not exposed or overlooked from the public gallery can be another, though it will take some time as new courts are designed and brought into use.

Incidentally, anticipating the call in yesterday's *Times* leader for stricter guidelines on jury service and excusal, the Lord Chief Justice has just issued a "practice direction" setting out the duty and giving evidence.

These measures are doing much to eliminate the occasional horror stories; but no measure can ever eliminate them entirely. Those who, recognizing this fact, wish therefore to abolish the jury system and replace it with something else need to speak up and say what.

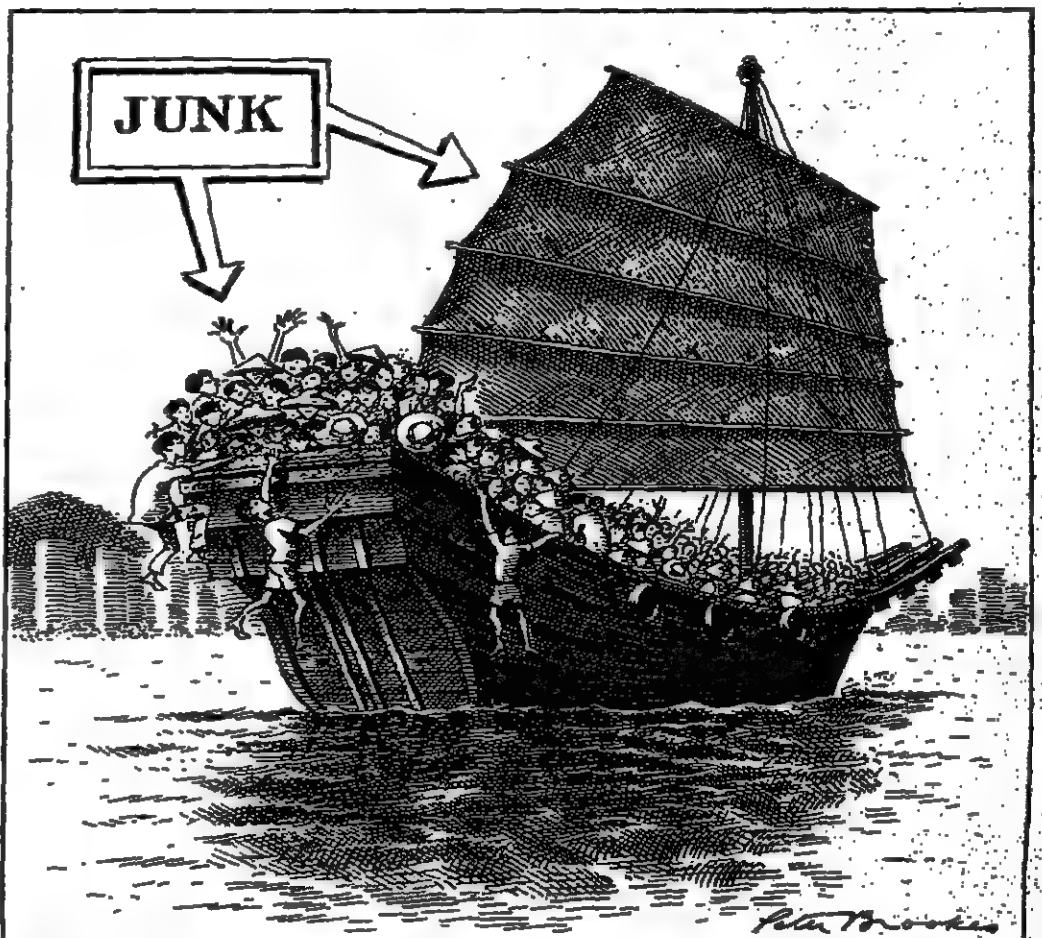
The author is Minister of State at the Home Office.

John Patten responds to *The Times* series on jury failings

Imperfect but in the clear

Bernard Levin

The point of no return



Nikolai Tolstoy's *Victims of Yalta*, in which the answer to the Foreign Office's question "what is there to worry about?" will be "you". That monstrous and unpardonable crime, in which hundreds of thousands of innocent, men, women and children (together with a minority of guilty ones) were deported to the Soviet Union, was carried out by a combination of deceit and force.

If some readers have only a vague impression of what happened, let me sharpen it for them with a single vignette. As the trains gathered speed, many of the victims threw their infant children out of the windows, in the hope that some might survive, be picked up, and escape

the certain death to which their parents were going.

I can hear Sir Geoffrey's gasp of indignation at my comparison; he may well offer *The Times* another article rebuking me for such intemperate language and assuring our readers that nothing like that would happen. And quite possibly it wouldn't; but if I were a Vietnamese boat person I would much rather not chance it on Sir Geoffrey's say-so alone, particularly if I had been reading the latest bulletin on the Sino-British negotiations over Hong Kong.

I am not in touch with the Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong; so I appeal to my friends there to pass the word. It is a simple word, and I imagine that

most of those to whom it is directed know it already.

First, and most important, do not believe anything whatever, said in the form of assurance by any British politician or official, high or low, either in Hong Kong or from London. Second, and most particularly, refuse all invitations to leave the compounds in which you are living; pretexts may include a claim that you are going to a better camp, or that you are to be issued with new clothes, or that there is gainful work awaiting you. Third, keep together: prevent the authorities' isolating groups of you anywhere in the camp. If pretexts run out, and there is an attempt at forcible seizure, tie or chain yourselves, in groups, to

anything solidly fixed, or to one another, in any case, try to alert the press, as well as known sympathizers. Do not in any circumstances use weapons or even fists; rather, take a leaf out of CND's book — lie down and go completely limp. Throughout, make as much noise as you possibly can, not only by shouting but by banging on metal; you will be surprised how unsettling noise can be to people who know they are doing wrong.

And remember that if the authorities and their forces retire in the face of your resolution, it will only be to regroup or think up some more plausible tricks.

Melodramatic, am I? Perhaps I am; but again, if I were one of the Vietnamese concerned, I doubt if I would think so. This country used to have a fine record, second only to the United States, of generosity towards refugees. If it had been otherwise, I would not exist; both my father and my maternal grandparents could say of Britain "I was a stranger, and ye took me in."

That record has been increasingly tarnished in the past few years, culminating in the infamous decree that obliges those fleeing from persecution to seek the imprimatur of those who are persecuting them. But the wholesale trans-shipment of thousands of refugees back to the land they had fled is something new and worse; remember, apart from anything else, that some of the boat people in Hong Kong have been there for several years.

But see! Here comes the Foreign Secretary, no less, bearing assurances from the Vietnamese authorities that refugees returned to them *en masse* by force will not be punished or ill-treated in any way, apart, perhaps, from a few words of admonition and a wagged finger. But then, as with Hong Kong, if the assurances are worthless, it will not be the Foreign Secretary who suffers the consequences. As they say at the end of the day's business in the House of Commons: Who goes home?

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

What price Sunday?

To television viewers the most noticeable change among Conservative activists recently may be that which symbolized at the recent party conference by the emergence of the knees-up-Mother-Brown tendency, as skirts were hoisted over elderly knees for dancing in the aisles on the afternoon of the leader's speech.

It may not stop there. Mr Harvey Thomas, the Tory director of presentation, has declared his belief that British politicians allow their message to be obscured by leaden presentation. He thinks they should take a lesson from American razzmatazz and glitz. He likes the idea of "special effects", including laser beams and balloons. For all I know we may eventually have rows of British drum-majorettes whipping up the horrible synthetic emotional outbursts which enable American politicians to substitute the media for the message.

But there were other manifestations of cultural change in parts of the Tory party which could best be absorbed by being physically present at the conference. Among these was the new campaign to win over the party to the abolition of the collective social Sunday. The spearhead of this endeavour is a professional lobby, opposed by an equally professional counter-lobby. To judge by general reactions during a debate on Sunday trading, the campaign for it has some boisterous and coarse-grained supporters.

Although a favourite argument of the Sunday trading lobby is the illogicality of a law under which we can buy a newspaper but not a Bible on Sunday, one speaker thought it wrong that you could buy a Bible (from a cathedral) but not buy

other things. "That's right," shouted a voice, "don't do what I do as I bloody well tell you."

To a farmer who put in a word for the traditional Sunday, somebody called: "I bet he never worked on a Sunday; his cows milked themselves." When a hesitant speaker began: "Sunday is a day when friends and family..." somebody finished off his sentence by calling out "can meet at Sainsbury's", which witicism, I suppose, touches the heart of the question. There is common agreement that the present law makes no sense and is regularly ignored. The distinctions between what can and cannot be sold on a Sunday are illogical. The law needs reform. The questions are how and what criteria should be used to determine what commerce is legal.

Two years ago the Government obtained a second reading for a Shops Bill to deregulate virtually all shopping hours and make Sunday trading legal. But it was forced to abandon the Bill because of opposition from Tory MPs reflecting the opinions of their constituents. Subsequently the Keep Sunday Special campaign produced proposals to maintain Sunday as a collective day of rest for the benefit of family and friendship, by prohibiting general trading but allowing shops selling certain exempt commodities (chemists, garden centres, restaurants, places of recreation and so on) to register for Sunday opening.

The pro-Sunday trading lobby (adopting the time-honoured camouflage of an anonymous name) operates as The Shopping Hours Reform Council. It wants total deregulation in the name of consumer choice. Its chairman is Sir Basil Feldman, its full-time

director is Mr Roger Boaden, formerly of the Tory Central Office, and both Mr Tim Bell, who has played an important part in Tory advertising, and Mr Stephen Sherbourne, until recently the Prime Minister's political adviser, are involved. The campaign has a lot of money.

The battle for public opinion is on. Mr Tim Renton, the Home Office minister responsible, told the Tory conference that the Government would not be rushed but that his personal preference was for complete half-day deregulation on Sundays. That, of course, would be a thin end of the wedge. The outcome will be determined by what MPs can be persuaded constitutes public opinion and how public opinion itself can be presented.

Democratic politicians are supposed to represent in action what they think the public wants, or at least what they think they can represent it as wanting. But how is public opinion moved? Sometimes it makes itself known spontaneously and action must be taken. But this is not how it is with Sunday trading. And when you are told that this or that percentage of people want this or that choice it is a moment for questions.

Who really has the strong and motivated interest in Sunday trading, the ordinary citizen who might feel annoyed by some of its illogicalities or the people who want an extra day for selling him something? Who is really worrying about choice? Demand can be manufactured, and that includes a demand for Sunday trading. Though Sabbatharians are against Sunday trading, opposition to it is by no means purely religious. Speaking personally, I have no objection to buying anything on a Sunday

but I do rather object to having people work unnecessarily against their family interests so that I could have that minor extra convenience.

Nor is it an answer to say that those who choose to stay at home with their families, or go to church, should have that choice respected, but that others should be free to work or to buy in a shop. Once main-street Sunday opening became general (some big stores do not want it because they fear they will be dragged into competition for not much more trade spread over seven days instead of six) the pressure for workers to take part would insidiously grow, guarantees or no guarantees. (There was a guarantee of conscience to safeguard doctors from an obligation to perform abortions. But although those already employed are protected, those applying for new posts are not.)

We should beware the argument that other European countries are free of Sunday trading restrictions. They are not. We should not be beguiled by arguments about corner shops, though it would be sensible to legalize the opening of small and largely self-employed corner food shops for part of the day. What we are concerned with is not the specifically religious character of Sunday but its generally accepted value and utility in our culture. We should beware of having a demand fathered on us.

We should ask the question: *Cui bono?* Who really stands to gain from all the money and effort given to this campaign? Is it really us, the citizens? As for the Tory party, it should remember that in a market economy, some things have a value beyond the cash price.

OCT 27 ON THIS DAY 1906



This bizarre incident formed the basis of the satirical play *Der Hauptmann von Köpenick* by Carl Zuckmayer (1896-1977). Staged and filmed in Germany, it was adapted by John Mortimer as *The Captain of Köpenick* and given its British premiere starring Paul Scofield, at the National Theatre in 1971.

THE KÖPENICK RAID

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

BERLIN, OCT 26

The "Captain of Köpenick," the clever thief who on October 16, disguised as an officer of the 1st Foot Guards, took command of a detachment of ten guardsmen, captured and deported the Burgomaster and the Municipal Treasurer of Köpenick, and robbed the Municipal Treasury of 4,000 marks (£200), was arrested at his lodging in Berlin this morning shortly before 8 o'clock. The hero of this extraordinary adventure turns out to be a shoemaker named Wilhelm Voigt, who is 57 years of age and is so much of an "old goat" that he has spent 27 years of his life in prison. The most remarkable thing about him is that he has never served in the army since he was twice arrested for theft in the years 1863 and 1864, and from that time forward was constantly getting into similar trouble. The photographs of the "captain" which are reproduced in the newspapers represent him as a broken-down old fellow, and only make the deception which he practised at Köpenick, not only upon civilians, but also upon guardsmen, police officers, and an officer of the reserve, appear more marvellous than ever.

When Voigt was cross-examined

could not understand how anybody could have allowed an "old man" like Voigt to pass as a captain without asking him to show his authority. To this the "captain" with a touch of his old fire, replied: "Sir, I do not know who you are. But even if you had come with your police president, do you think that I should first have entered into a long palaver with you? I should simply have said to the soldiers, 'Take those fellows by the scruff of the neck and march them off into custody.'"

During the course of further examination Voigt told the detectives that he nearly "lost control of his countenance" when the police inspector of Köpenick stood at attention before him and asked leave to go off duty to have a bath. He was so surprised that at first he hardly knew what to say. Upon regaining his composure he waved his white-gloved hand and said: "Well, yes I suppose so; you may go."

The news of the arrest of the "Captain of Köpenick" has been received by the general public with a sigh of regret. Many would have preferred that the hero of the Köpenick raid should linger in the popular memory as a legendary personage, daring but elusive. As it is, the discovery that the "captain" is an "old goat" who has spent half his life in prison has not diminished his popularity with the masses, but it has stung to the quick all those who profess to be intent upon the maintenance of the present order of things. In view of the consequences the soldiers are blamed for their unreflecting obedience, but extenuating circumstances are conceded to them. In the case of the Burgomaster of Köpenick and of his officers, however, the wonder grows how they could have mistaken even for a moment the identity and character of the hectoring "old goat" who was descending upon them in the interest of the uniform of the Prussian army.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

THE CHANCELLOR'S PRIZE

Chancellor Kohl believes he is returning from the Soviet Union with a pledge from Mr Gorbachov that all political prisoners will be released before the end of the year. If he has such a pledge, that is good.

The West German leader also says that the pledge is not a reward for Bonn's agreement to support Moscow's cherished project of an international conference on human rights in the Soviet capital. If true, that is even better.

But the prize Chancellor Kohl thinks he has won poses a host of questions. Some of them were immediately apparent yesterday in the reticence of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press spokesman, Mr Gerasimov, who denied that the subject of political prisoners was on the agenda of the Soviet-West German talks. (The distinction between "on the agenda" and "raised in passing" is a nice one and one the Soviet press spokesman is fully capable of observing.) Other questions will take longer to emerge. They will all need answers.

In one important respect, Chancellor Kohl has responded impeccably. If he was given an undertaking by the Soviet side on freedom for political prisoners, however informal and however fleeting, he was right to put it on record — loudly and clearly.

The West now has an admission from Moscow, albeit carefully phrased, that it is holding political prisoners. It also has a date for their release. The Soviet Union has found it all too easy in the past to back out of undertakings informally given. By making it public, Herr Kohl has made it costly for Moscow to retreat.

It is now that the difficulties begin. Mr Gerasimov said he knew of no plans to release political prisoners. He may well have had no such knowledge before Herr Kohl went public. Mr Gorbachov is not averse to springing surprises on his officials. But Mr Gerasimov may also have been concerned about definitions. Herr Kohl and the West would do well to be concerned, too.

The Soviet Union appears to regard political prisoners (on the rare occasions it accepts the term) as those sentenced for the infinitely flexible offence of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". One Soviet source yesterday suggested there were only around 20 such prisoners remaining following a spate of

releases in the past two years. Western estimates suggest that there may be between 200 and 300 "political prisoners". But this definition would include those convicted of petty criminal offences, often on questionable evidence, to mask their "real" crime of disagreeing with the authorities. It could also include nationalist activists (excluding terrorists) and religious dissenters, all of whom can be and are imprisoned on various pretexts.

Whose definition will be accepted? Will it apply to those serving out terms of exile as well as those in prison or labour camp? Will they be freed unconditionally, or only if, as at present, they agree to sign an undertaking not to re-offend?

Even if the definition of "political prisoner" favoured by an organization like Amnesty International were to be accepted by Moscow, there is a further risk. Many expect that the Soviet Union will abolish the offence of "anti-Soviet propaganda". If all those convicted of this offence are released by the end of the year, this would leave Moscow able to say to the West not only "there are no longer any political prisoners", but also "you know there aren't".

It is essential that a degree of flexibility remains. For its part, the West should resist the temptation to "find" large numbers of "political" prisoners to meet the end-of-year deadline. Hurdled casework can all too easily be discredited.

The remaining question relates to Chancellor Kohl's statement that there was no connection between Bonn's acceptance of a Moscow human rights conference in 1991 and the prisoners' freedom. He may not have made such a connection, but it is open to the Soviet side to have drawn one — and to make life difficult for Bonn if its support weakens.

If, however, there genuinely is no connection, then what did West Germany offer in return? Was it just good publicity for Mr Gorbachov? Was it payment of a higher price for East German emigration, or was it something more substantial: a promise of more substantial credit on favourable terms or a pledge to represent the Soviet case sympathetically within the EEC? Those who today greet the Chancellor as a prize-winner from Moscow need the answers to these questions.

MR HURD'S CONFUSION

The Government's decision to bar the IRA and other terrorist spokesmen from the airwaves was always certain to be controversial. It was not bound to be the confused mess which is now undermining the purpose and effectiveness of the measure.

The ban was designed to "follow very closely" a similar prohibition in the Republic of the Home Secretary told the House of Commons when making his initial announcement last week. That parallel is clear in the intention of the measure: it reduces the presence of a terrorist organization to a minimum and makes no distinction between "military" and "political" wings of any such group.

Some may feel that the aim of such measures may be achieved only at too high a price. The aim is perfectly honourable, none the less. The moral superiority of government in such a situation does not rest on it freezing for eternity every legal provision which has an influence on the course of events. It has a duty to protect the lives of the huge majority of law-abiding citizens.

A government contemplating such a move must weigh the cost of circumscribing freedom of expression and the practical enforceability of a ban in the various actual and likely conditions over the period in which it might have to remain in force. Having done that and decided in favour of the principle of limiting the IRA and Sinn Féin's freedom to promote murder on television and radio, the Government then had some further work to do in deciding precisely how the ban would work.

Yesterday's sequence of clarification and counter-clarification gave every impression that this work had been superficially done. When Mr Hurd spoke last Thursday, he described a relatively wide-ranging prohibition which appeared to rule out the "broadcasting

of statements" which "support or invite support" for proscribed organizations and Sinn Féin, in addition to "direct statements by representatives" of these organizations. Those formulations begged some unanswered questions but they appeared to make no distinction between speaking about terrorism and republicanism and complaining about repairs to housing, drains and the state of the footpaths.

A distinction between these two seems to have been either made or discovered subsequently. It is important that Mr Hurd affirm, once and for all, that, as far as the broadcasting ban is concerned, a distinction does not exist.

The implementation of the ban was always likely to be harder in Northern Ireland than it ever had been south of the border because of the higher level of electoral support for Sinn Féin. Some 60 Sinn Féin councillors have been elected across the province.

One of the IRA's principal purposes in the current phase of its long campaign is to maintain a fluid and changeable ambiguity between killing and electoral politics. An organization dedicated to the careful exploitation of murder for a political end — the severance of Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom — markets itself as a permanent feature of "normal" life.

The exceptions to the rule which Mr Hurd mentioned immediately about the House of Commons and election campaigns are wide enough as it is. If the Government is ready to court and ride out the international unpopularity of circumscribing journalistic freedom at all, it should be ready to do so to some purpose.

Denying the IRA easy opportunities to polish its image as a band of community politicians is central to that. Restricting Sinn Féin's appearances to "local" issues may actually make the position worse by presenting it only as a peaceful political party.

TO THE AMAZON

It is one of the curiosities of modern Latin American history that, despite cultural and linguistic affinities which ought to have encouraged regional co-operation, its leaders have preferred hanging separately to holding together. Most regional pacts and free trade areas have fallen fast into desuetude. The most durable, the US-dominated Organisation of American States, has become a talking-shop.

The year-old "Group of Eight" Latin American countries, seven of whose presidents are today meeting in Punta del Este, breaks with this tradition. Its members — Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Panama has been suspended because of the others' distaste for General Noriega) — initially came together to consolidate the trend from dictatorship to democracy in Latin America. The presidents' present agenda is far from parochial. Debt, ecological destruction, the drugs trade and terrorism are themes which span the Atlantic.

Together, the leaders represent 325 million people. They owe 77 per cent of Latin America's foreign debt, which figures prominently on their agenda this week. Far from representing an embryo debtors' cartel, however, the group has begun to show itself a force for moderate innovation in resolving the debt crisis.

Debt and democracy are linked. The civilian governments which have replaced so many Latin American juntas this decade all promised economic growth and a fairer deal for the poor. But as they have wrestled with economic reforms and debt repayments, growth has faltered. In still shallowly-rooted democracies, hardship helps guerrilla movements and heightens the risk that the military will return. The leaders claim to be strengthening

regional co-operation to tackle drugs and trafficking, but are likely to place most emphasis on the need for tougher domestic measures by the Western "consumer" countries. This distinction between producers and consumers is, however, increasingly artificial. Latin American countries are among the fastest growing consumer markets in the world.

The presidents intend to reopen dialogue with the US on practical ways of solving regional problems. But they place even more emphasis on developing a Latin American foreign policy less dependent on the United States, with closer ties to the European Community, Scandinavia and South-east Asia.

These overtures are being taken seriously by the EC, which holds long meetings with the Eight twice a year. There is scope for more bilateral initiatives. No British prime minister has paid an official visit to Latin America.

The reasons for Britain's long neglect of Latin America — its lack of strategic importance, the absence of colonial ties and common language, the assumption that it was the United States' backyard and above all the repugnant nature of many of its governments — are less and less convincing. On drugs, there is already close co-ordination. It could be stepped up for the preservation of the tropical rain forests, where Britain's expertise in forest management is already in demand in Honduras and Costa Rica.

It is worth acknowledging the debt-democracy link: some schemes for debt reduction are not incompatible with economic discipline and deserve a more sympathetic audience. There could even be a case for Mrs Thatcher to break with precedent and take her green message to the world's Amazonian lungs.

Weeding out the younger juror

From Mrs Virginia Gasper
Sir, Your article on the English jury (Spectrum, October 24) was sad but predictable.

Originally, jurors were selected from those who owned property (at a time when not many did) on the basis that they represented a responsible element of society.

Today, these same people are often excluded — first, because such a large group are exempt, and secondly, by the right of defence counsel to challenge.

Rather than raise the upper age-limit of a juror to 70, it would be more painful to raise the lower age-limit to 25 at least. Being a juror is an important task and few 18-year-olds are equipped to deal with that sort of responsibility — nor should they be expected to.

The usual argument put forward for the young (i.e., that if they are old enough to fight for their country, they are old enough to do this, that, or the other) is a non-starter. War is an emergency: jury service and most of the other roles to which this argument is applied are not.

Yours faithfully,
VIRGINIA GASPER (solicitor),
34 Trinity Church Square, SE1,
October 24.

Soldiers in Ulster

From Dr D. G. H. Patey
Sir, Mr Raymond Blackburn (October 20) makes a plea that 18-year-old soldiers should not serve in Northern Ireland and cites a successful plea about Korea which he made to Mr Atlee in 1951.

It should not be forgotten that 18-year-old soldiers, the "battalions of boys" of whom my father was one, played an important part in stopping the German offensives in the spring of 1918 and in the subsequent advances made by the British Army later in the year, which brought the war to a successful conclusion and which current received opinion appears to prefer to forget.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY PATEY,
Lilac Cottage, Golden Square,
Walcote College,
Colchester, Essex,
October 21.

From Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon (Conservative)
Sir, No one who has served in Northern Ireland could have failed to admire the mature conduct of 18-year-old soldiers in the province. Their bearing is a tribute to their motivation and their training.

I doubt if any such adult professionals would wish to be excused service on grounds of age. Yours faithfully,
C. GOODSON-WICKES,
House of Commons,
October 25.

Rewarding heroism

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. D. Sainsbury
Sir, Mr Alan McLoughlin (October 18) is wrong in suggesting that appointments in the Order of the British Empire are being made in recognition of gallantry in Northern Ireland or elsewhere. With the institution of the Queen's Gallantry Medal on June 20, 1974, awards in the Order of the British Empire "for gallantry", which between 1957 and 1974 had been distinguished by an oak-leaf emblem worn on the ribbon, ceased.

The United Kingdom thus has a hierarchy of four awards for gallantry "not in the face of the enemy". In ascending order, they are: Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct, Queen's Gallantry Medal, George Medal, and George Cross. All can now be awarded posthumously.

It is, accordingly, quite easy to identify, in a list of awards for services in Northern Ireland, those who distinguished themselves in actions, those whose gallantry was seen as "post-combatant", and those whose awards recognised "distinguished" rather than "gallant" service. And post-nominal letters fully reflect the differences. Yours faithfully,
J. D. SAINSBURY,
8 Mornington, Diswell,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire,
October 24.

GPs' changing role

From Dr Robert M. H. Lefever
Sir, As a general medical practitioner in fully private practice I am in some senses a budget-holder for consultant specialists to whom I refer patients and they, in turn, are the budget-holders for the private hospitals into which they choose to admit those patients.

The system works to the advantage of my patients in so far as the specialists change hospitals and I change specialists when we are dissatisfied with the services we receive.

However, there is one further link in the chain which Mr Clarke may have overlooked in his plans for the NHS (article, October 12; letters, October 22). My patients can drop me at any time and I will lose my livelihood if I forget that I am answerable to them. A general practitioner on the NHS has a supply of patients and an income that is largely guaranteed. Power without risk is not a healthy prescription. Sincerely,
ROBERT LEFEVER,
2a Pelham Street, SW7,
October 25.

VAT apprehension in universities

From Mr K. P. Warner
Sir, Following recent correspondence on the subject of VAT and university sponsorship, and particularly the letter from T. R. E. Owen (October 24), I would like to dispel any ambiguity that may be persisting in some readers' minds on this subject.

We act for several university colleges, and while it is correct that supplies of education by a university are exempt from VAT, and therefore any related VAT cannot be claimed back, that is not the case on VAT suffered in making taxable business supplies, which may be reclaimed in the normal way.

Similarly, should a business choose to sponsor a university and that firm or company be VAT-registered and be able to reclaim all its VAT, then VAT charged on the supply of sponsorship would be reclaimable as if it were any other business expense.

I would agree that where the sponsorship comes from a business in the financial or a similar sector, then the VAT is unlikely to be reclaimable and will be an additional cost, but this is a problem "exempt" businesses always experience and not something unique to university sponsorship.

As a final point, the additional taxable supplies of sponsorship may well enable a university to claim VAT on administrative and overhead expenditure which is currently restricted, thus creating an unexpected bonus in addition to the actual sponsorship received.

Whilst there may be many problems facing this new method of funding universities, I cannot see that the imposition of VAT on

sponsorship is likely to be a major stumbling-block.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH WARNER
(VAT Manager),
Clark Whitehill,
Chartered Accountants,
25 New Street Square, EC4,
October 25.

From Mr Bernard Cox
Sir, As in the case of other learned and professional societies, a principal object in our royal charter is to encourage research. Our discipline is concerned with increasing the financial efficiency of all organisations, whether industrial, commercial, or administrative.

In line with this object we have supported research and university chairs to the tune of £500,000 over the last few years. By way of illustration, our current initiative is concerned with the evaluation of corporate performance, especially in the light of short-termism.

It could be (weakly) argued that the institute, and thereby its members, gains some kind of promotional benefit from the expenditure making it liable to VAT. This would be counter-productive because there is only one pot of gold — meaning that less much-needed research could be supported.

There must be other professional bodies in the same boat and Nigel Lawson should stop the imposition of VAT on all donations to universities by primary legislation.

Yours faithfully,
B. COX (Director of Research),
The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants,
63 Portland Place, W1,
October 26.

Glaucoma testing

From the Chairman of the International Glaucoma Association
Sir, The Government has stated its intention of restoring to the Health and Medicines Bill the clause, rejected by the Lords, which would abolish the free NHS eye test and require a charge of £10 to be made, leading to a saving to the Exchequer of about £90 million a year.

The free test has been the most important means of detecting chronic glaucoma before it reaches the advanced stage when the sufferer, at last, becomes aware that his sight is failing. Early detection means less sight lost and a better chance of preserving what is left. Surveys show that there are about 125,000 known sufferers and about the same number who are unaware that they have the disease.

The Government has talked of two concessions. The first would allow glaucoma sufferers to have free eye tests, but most already have regular free checks as hospital out-patients. The second would offer free eye tests to blood

relatives of chronic glaucoma patients who are especially at risk.

This is to be welcomed. However, simply testing the blood relatives of known sufferers will leave exposed many of those who are losing their sight. Most of these will be pensioners because glaucoma is mainly a disease of the middle-aged and elderly.

The Government says, rightly, that some pensioners can afford a £10 test, but there are many who will not easily find such a sum. It is these pensioners, and there must be thousands of them, who would be placed at a greater risk of blindness by the Government's proposals. This risk has to be set against the £90 million saving.

May we ask that Mr Clarke does battle with the Treasury on behalf of those at risk, and especially the pensioners.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD PITTS CRICK,
Chairman,
International Glaucoma Association,
PO Box 75, London, SE5 9RU,
October 24.

Paying for mistakes

From Mr J. S. Wilson
Sir, In his comments on the letter which you published (October 20) from the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr Alan Fisher (October 24), referring to Abbeystead, asks, "can the civil engineering profession really be encouraged by the fact that the evidence revealed widespread ignorance of the properties of methane gas amongst its ranks?"

It was not the properties of methane, but the circumstances of its generation and introduction into a water installation of that kind, and whether this was, or was not, something which should, or could, reasonably have been foreseen which formed the crux of the argument over the Abbeystead

disaster. The matter was in fact highly complex.

Where accidents result from identifiable negligence or incompetence engineers should certainly be answerable, but they can only reasonably be expected to show competence, not omniscience.

A fund, as suggested by the President of the ICE, would enable speedy compensation to be paid to the victims, leaving the question of whether and to what extent any degree of blame might rest on the engineer and/or others to be determined in a calmer and less emotionally-charged atmosphere.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. WILSON,
79 St Andrew's Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
October 24.

Getting to the point

From the Director and Chief Executive of Access
Sir, Your correspondent (October 24) questioned the effectiveness of making charity donations by credit cards after an Access contribution to Sudan was listed on her statement as "Mozambique Appeal".

Charitable organisations occasionally use the same Access retailer number for different appeals and, in a few isolated cases, the previous appeal name appears on the statement. However, I can assure you that the money is always credited to the cause of the cardholder's choice.

Credit cards are an extremely effective method of making charity donations, and many millions of pounds are raised by this convenient method of payment every year.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. LEE, Director
and Chief Executive,
Access,
Charwell House,
365 Charwell Square,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex,
October 25.

Family allowances

From Mr J. H. G. Woolcombe
Sir, Lady Jeger's case (October 25) for universal child benefit is injured by a familiar socialist confusion between *means* and *tuam*. "The public purse", out of which child and other benefits certainly come, consists of other people's money. By contrast, a tax reduction allows us to keep more of our own, with effects on the public purse which, recent experi-

ence shows, can be highly beneficial.

If tax cuts and child benefits are identical twins it can only be because everything belongs to the State in the first place. I doubt if Lady Jeger herself really believes that.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WOOLCOMBE,
Hemerton House, Plympton,
Plymouth, Devon,
October 25.

Parent governors

From Mr B. W. W. Hurn
Sir, Your report (later editions, October 15) only three areas (Stockport, Greater Manchester, and Rotherham) as having schools where no ballots for school governors were necessary. My understanding is that this situation applied in several more districts.

Certainly, there are many schools which held no elections. Nor do the statistics reveal how many parent governors were elected following intensive canvassing by other governors and headteachers; without such canvassing many schools would have been left with parent-governor vacancies.

The increased level of interest being shown is welcome, but still represents a very small proportion of the nation's parents. Most of them are keenly interested in the progress of their own children, but have not the time to devote to the task of being an effective governor as required by the recent legislation.

Finally, it would not be in the Department of Education and Science's best interests to hear of any schools failing to find sufficient parent governors. Yours faithfully,
BERNARD HURN, Headmaster,
Tollgate County Junior School,
Winston Crescent, Seaside,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.

On the day that Kennedy died

From Miss Carinthia West
Sir, By coincidence, I was cleaning out an old trunk when the Saturday Times, containing your article about John F. Kennedy, was delivered. In the trunk was an old copy of the New York Times, dated November 23, 1963, which I must have saved and forgotten when we moved back to England in 1965. The first 16 pages were devoted to the assassination.

As the 12-year-old daughter of a senior British serviceman stationed in Washington DC, I attended the National Cathedral School for Girls, a private school packed with the daughters of senators, congressmen, and ministers. My classmates and I were changing for gym when the news that President Kennedy had been shot arrived.

We were told to file up to the gymnasium to join the rest of the school in prayer. It was a Friday afternoon, a time when most of us were counting the minutes to freedom. Now, as the headmistress softly read the Lord's Prayer, we counted the minutes of life left to this handsome young man who was so much a part of our early adulthood, until the tolling of the cathedral bells, reverberating through the school walls, told us that John F. Kennedy was dead.

I remember Luci Baines Johnson collapsing in the arms of her secret serviceman (the next time I saw her she had two, for she was then the President's daughter). I remember my mother coming to collect me and the long, silent ride home, where it seemed as if all Washington was behind locked doors watching television. There were unusually blue skies for a November day.

Who knows whether Kennedy would have lived: up to the promise he showed then. What does seem to me to be true is that, as two lacklustre candidates fight for the place he once occupied, John F. Kennedy, at 71, would have had a lot to teach them.

Yours sincerely,
CARINTHIA WEST,
4 Albert Studios,
Albert Bridge Road, SW11,
October 23.

From Mr Ossia Trilling
Sir, On November 22, 1963, in a week of reviewing the opening operas at the newly rebuilt National Theatre in Munich for your Arts Page, I chose to pop over to Heidelberg for a new production of Büchner's *Woyzeck* at the City Theatre. Just before the end, the intendant, Hans Peter Doll, came on stage and cut short the performance. Today, he explained, it would be wrong to let his actors bring down the final curtain with the last words of Büchner's tragedy, "I shall say them myself", he said.

They went something like this: *Ein echter Mord, ein schöner Mord... wir haben schon lange so keinen gehabt.* (A true murder, a beautiful murder... it's been a long time since we had one like it).

Then came his bombshell: "We have just heard on the air", he concluded, "that President Kennedy has been assassinated".

Stunned by the news, we froze into a silence that seemed to go on and on, until the very last of the audience had trooped out into the black night. Yours sincerely,
OSSIA TRILLING,
9a Portland Place, W1,
October 22.

President's honour

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Essex
Sir, Readers of your newspaper at this university took a particular interest in your Diplomatic Correspondent's report (October 20) of the visit of the President of Costa Rica. The purpose of the visit was to receive an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the University of Essex.

Mrs of good will everywhere can but support President Arias' attempts to solve the conflicts of Latin America at the negotiation table and not on the battlefield and this university has now paid tribute to the political skills and aspirations of this remarkable man in an appropriate and timely manner.

Yours etc,
MARTIN HARRIS,
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Essex,
Wivenhoe Park,
Colchester, Essex.

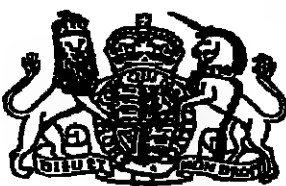
Knees, please

From Mrs J. Tulloch
Sir, How reassuring it was to learn from the Wednesday Page (October 19) that I am not entirely alone in longing to see that long-forgotten image of what being a boy is all about — cap askew, bulging pockets, scuffed shoes, with socks at half-mast, revealing dirty and battle-scarred knees, knees engraved with grime; knees withstanding all the elements; knees which learn to heal quickly.

Instead, we have mini-adults who reveal ill-white, unblemished, weak-looking limbs each summer. My own son is eight and at prep school, where the uniform, much to my horror, is corduroy trousers, winter and summer, the reason being, it is a country school.

It seems grey-flannel short trousers exist only for the very brave! Yours faithfully,
J. TULLOCH,
Bossington Corn Barn,
Bossington, Nr Adisham, Kent,
October 21.





COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 26: The Queen held a Council at 12.00 noon.

There were present: The Right Hon John Wakeham, MP (Lord President), the Right Hon Norman Fowler, MP (Secretary of State for Employment), the Right Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew, MP (Attorney General), the Right Hon Maurice Elwyn Casey (Judge of the New Zealand Court of Appeal), and the Right Hon Lynda Chalker, MP (Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

The Right Hon Maurice Elwyn Casey, having been previously appointed a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, took the necessary Oaths.

The Hon Sir Brian Hutton (Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland) was sworn in as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Geoffrey de Deney was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Right Hon John Wakeham, MP, had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

After the Council the Right Hon Sir Brian Hutton had the honour of being received by the Queen upon his appointment as Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland when Her Majesty conferred upon him the Honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

General Sir John Chapple had the honour of being received by the Queen upon his appointment as Chief of the General Staff.

Mr D A S Gladstone (British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka) and Mrs Gladstone had the honour of being received by the Queen.

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, this afternoon opened the new building of the Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Having been received by the Mayor of Islington (Councillor Valda James) and the Chairman of the Board of Governors (Mr J M Cumberlege), Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh toured the facilities of the new building and met staff and patients.

The Marchioness of Aberghaveny, Mr Kenneth Scott and Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Lawrence, RN were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Twelfth Man of the Lord's Taverners, this morning at Buckingham Palace presented the 1988 County Championship Trophy to Worcester County Cricket Club.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the British Services Everest Expedition, attended a reception at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore.

Major Sir Guy Acland, BT was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature International, this evening attended a dinner at Syon Park, Middlesex.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Princess Royal, Chancellor of the University of London, this morning visited the new Garden Wood Laboratory of Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine at Silwood Park, Ascot, Berkshire (Pro Rector of Imperial College, Professor B Coles), Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord

Recital

City of London School

Gillian Weir will give a recital including works by Bach, Franck, Messiaen, Ives, and Elton John.

At 7.15, introducing the Glenfiddich Piping Championship. Ten pipers are invited, on merit, to take part, each of whom has to play a pibroch and a set of March, Strathspey and Reel.

As always, the competition was held in the Great Hall at Blair Castle, the seat of the Duke of Atholl. This year was the first time that a woman piper has ever competed; she was Amy Carson, from Canada, a frequent competitor both in Scotland and elsewhere, and holder of the Silver Medal at Inverness which she won with the Park Pibroch Band No. 2, the tune she played at Blair this year.

The champion winner was Piper Major Gavin Stoddart, principal instructor at the Army School of Piping, who won this championship in 1983. This year he took first prize for pibroch and playing The Earl of Seaford's Salute. This tune was composed by Seaford's Pipe, and is both a salute to the Chief of the MacKenzies and a lament for his absence following the Jacobite rising of 1715. This won him also the Highland Society of London's Trophy. Piper Major Stoddart won the second prize for March, Strathspey and Reel with the Marquis of Tullibardine, Athol Cummers, and Lochiel's away to France.

Second in the championship came Roderick MacLeod, from Cumbernauld. He won the second prize for pibroch and

Meeting

Council of Christians and Jews

The Council of Christians and Jews Annual General Meeting was held in London on Tuesday, October 25, chaired by the Rev. C. V. O. The main address was delivered by Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster and Sir Sigmund Sternberg, proposed the vote of thanks.

Piping

Army chief instructor wins for second time

By Angus Nicol

It is every piper's ambition to receive an invitation to play in this championship, said Malcolm MacLennan, the 1987 champion, who introduced the Glenfiddich Piping Championship. Ten pipers are invited, on merit, to take part, each of whom has to play a pibroch and a set of March, Strathspey and Reel.

As always, the competition was held in the Great Hall at Blair Castle, the seat of the Duke of Atholl. This year was the first time that a woman piper has ever competed; she was Amy Carson, from Canada, a frequent competitor both in Scotland and elsewhere, and holder of the Silver Medal at Inverness which she won with the Park Pibroch Band No. 2, the tune she played at Blair this year.

The champion winner was Piper Major Gavin Stoddart, principal instructor at the Army School of Piping, who won this championship in 1983. This year he took first prize for pibroch and playing The Earl of Seaford's Salute. This tune was composed by Seaford's Pipe, and is both a salute to the Chief of the MacKenzies and a lament for his absence following the Jacobite rising of 1715. This won him also the Highland Society of London's Trophy. Piper Major Stoddart won the second prize for March, Strathspey and Reel with the Marquis of Tullibardine, Athol Cummers, and Lochiel's away to France.

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Service dinner

7th Armoured Division

Major-General P. Roberts presided at the annual dinner of the 7th Armoured Division Officers' Club held last night at the Officers' Mess, Blandford, Dorset, at 7.30.

The Princess of Wales will attend a reception at the Churchill Hotel at 11.10 in aid of the International Society of Music at 7.55.

Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Colonel the Hon Gordon Palmer), Mrs Malcolm Wallace was in attendance.

This afternoon, Her Royal Highness, President, the British Olympic Association, attended the Association's Annual General Meeting at the Café Royal, 68, Regent Street, London W.1.

Mr Malcolm Wallace and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

This evening The Princess Royal received Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and Princess Monique at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 26: The Prince of Wales left Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight for The Netherlands on the occasion of the William and Mary Tercentenary celebrations.

His Royal Highness was received by His Excellency Monsieur Hans Jonkman (The Netherlands Ambassador) and Mr Jeremy Castle (Business Services Manager, Heathrow Airport Limited).

Sir John Riddell, BT and Mr Richard Armitage were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales was called to the Bench of the Middle Temple and subsequently dined with the Masters of the Bench and other members of the Inn at Middle Temple, London EC4.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Jepson, RN were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

October 26: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Air Chief Commandant, Women's Royal Air Force, today visited the Royal Highness, attended by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the Building Industry Youth Trust, was present this evening at a reception at Innholders' Hall, London EC4.

Li Col Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of Notting Hill Housing Trust, this afternoon opened Drayton Bridge Road Development, Ealing, London W7.

His Majesty was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

October 26: The Duke of Kent today visited the Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham and later, as Vice Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visited the British Federal Welder Company Limited, Dudley, West Midlands.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, today attended a luncheon to celebrate the appointment of the 300th Macmillan Nurse at the Great Hall and later presented the fifth BBC Radio Times Drama Awards at the BBC Television Centre, London W12.

Mrs Peter Wilton-Sitwell was in attendance.

At the invitation of Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty The Queen of the Netherlands and His Royal Highness Prince Claus of the Netherlands visited the United Kingdom from 28th June, 1989 in connection with the celebration of the William and Mary Tercentenary. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will stay at Buckingham Palace.

Recital

City of London School

Gillian Weir will give a recital including works by Bach, Franck, Messiaen, Ives, and Elton John.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.H.B. Maudslay and Mrs J.H.B. Maudslay

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.H.B. Maudslay and of Lady Maudslay, and Arabella, daughter of Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle and Lady Potworh.

Mr R.H. Manners and Miss S.S. Jones

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the Hon Thomas and Mrs Manners, of The Old Malt House, Ashford Hill, Newbury, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Jukes, of Old Rectory, Farnham, Surrey.

Mr R.C. Gardner and Miss M.M. Denny

A marriage has been arranged between Richard Charles, second son of Colonel William and Mrs Gardner, of College Farm, Thompson, Norfolk, and Melissa Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Denny, of Rose Cottage, Hastings, Kent.

Mr A.H. Mest and Miss G.K. Venables-Llewellyn

The engagement is announced between Antony, second son of Mr Humphrey Mest, of Moxham, Normandy, and Mrs Peter Cadbury, of Armsworth Hill, Hampshire, and of Mrs Susan Cadbury, of Rockbourne, Hampshire, and Miss Jeanne Marie Soignet, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Soignet, of Metairie, Louisiana.

Mr J.R. Auld and Miss J.M. Soignet

The marriage took place on October 14, in New Orleans, of Mr John Robert Auld, son of the late A.J. Auld, and of Mrs Susan Auld, of Rockbourne, Hampshire, and Miss Jeanne Marie Soignet, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.M. Soignet, of Metairie, Louisiana.

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TELEVISION

No star needed

There can be no doubt of Paul McCartney's sincerity in supporting the Nordoff-Robbins music therapy centre in their work with those mentally handicapped, and little question that more people watched *The Power of Music* (BBC1) because of his participation than would otherwise have been attracted to such a documentary.

It is not McCartney's fault that he is perceived as a being so rare that normal people fall over the furniture in his presence and otherwise gifted film-makers are inhibited in employing him. Nevertheless, the opening sequence of this programme, in which he uses the *Radio Times* reverential description, "the 46-year-old superstar, himself a father of four, joins the brain-injured children and begins to sing and play his guitar", were the least successful.

Like a cherry on a cake, this section appeared to have been stuck on to make the prospect more attractive. The most interesting and moving parts of the programme concerned the role that music played with mentally impaired adults. There were men who could not speak but who could sing, despairing victims of manic depression, who could express their turbulent feelings through music, and many others who had found happiness, friendships and self-respect in performing. These sequences, particularly those inside London's Friern Barnet hospital, were sensitively filmed. Overall, however, there was an irritating lack of context and an assumption that the audience would not be interested in anything more than a sentimental appreciation of therapists' work.

Despatches (Channel 4) presented a thorough and balanced assessment of Turkey's attitude to human rights. It alleged that although this country, being eager to join the EEC, has ratified the major international agreements on human rights, the police frequently use torture against people suspected of left wing political sympathies and members of the Kurdish minority. The glib denials of the minister responsible for relations with Europe, were set against evidence from the Press, the political opposition and interviews with victims of torture and a former policeman.

Celia Brayfield

David Robinson on a traditional British literary costume piece and two remarkable film biographies

CINEMA

A Summer Story (15)
Warner Leicester Square

Imagine: John Lennon (15)
Warner West End

Vincent (PG)
Camden Plaza, Minema

Hanna's War (15)
Cannons Shaftesbury Avenue,
Golders Green

Death - Japanese Style (18)
Curzon Phoenix

Consuming Passions (15)
Odeon Marble Arch, Cannon
Panton Street

In the wake of export successes like *A Room With a View* and *Maurice*, British film-makers are evidently reverting to the tradition of class- and class-ridden literary costume pieces. *A Summer Story*, adapted by Penelope Mortimer from John Galsworthy's 1916 story *The Apple Tree* and directed by Piers Haggard, is as firmly rooted in its period as a Victorian sentimental ballad.

Set in 1902, it is the archetypal tale of a maiden wronged. A young barrister (James Wilby), staying at a remote farm to nurse an ankle sprained on a walking tour, falls for an orphaned country girl (Imogen Stubbs). He promises to return for her, but delays, dalliance and cowardice intervene. Twenty years later, the revisiting barrister learns the tragic outcome of his betrayal.

To the film's credit it remains faithful to the high romantic sentiment: the only concession to modernity is fetching nude romps in hayloft, shearing shed and moonlit pool. The period recreation is careful and tasteful, apart from a surfeit of local colour in Edwardian Turkey; and the whole is finely photographed by Ken MacMillan. The real making of the film, though, is the superb performance of Imogen Stubbs - contained, touching and true in every detail.

Few personalities can have been more recorded than John Lennon. Andrew Solt's documentary biography *Imagine: John Lennon* includes film ranging from grainy



The man who didn't come back: James Wilby with Imogen Stubbs in *A Summer Story*

black-and-white of the early Beatles in Liverpool and Hamburg, to nude love scenes with Yoko Ono a week or two before Lennon's murder. The story is narrated in his own voice and words, taken from interviews.

The result is more autobiography than biography; and like most autobiography the view is somewhat favourable. Lennon emerges as an intelligent, self-critical person, earnest about his vague and various good causes. Despite the flamboyant publicity gestures (like bed press conferences) he remained his own man. Only later in life, it seems, did he permit himself the luxury of being "vulnerable", of "cracking up", and of seeking a surrogate mother in Yoko. His best music sounds better than ever.

Vincent: The Life and Death of Van Gogh - made by the Dutch-born director Paul Cox in anticipation of the centenary of Van Gogh's death in 1990 - also verges on autobiography, since the spoken text is

entirely taken from the painter's letters to his brother Theo. Passing from his first intentions of becoming an evangelist and missionary, Vincent describes how he realizes his gift for drawing, then moves on to painting and the discovery of colour.

The words (feeling spoken by John Hurt) are complemented with images of extraordinary intelligence and sensitivity. The places where Van Gogh lived, people of the callings and class who provided his models, above all the landscapes and lights and flowers that inspired him, are juxtaposed with the paintings, spectacularly well photographed. Never obvious or flippant in his choice of image, Cox experiments with 8mm and fast-moving cameras to achieve visual effects corresponding to the visions and techniques of the pictures.

It is a rare exploration of an artist's mind and work, conveying the terrible intensity of a vision that demanded instant, passionate record, and the tormenting obsessions that ended in madness and suicide.

Death - Japanese Style was the film which launched its director Juzo Itami as Japan's best-selling comic social commentator. The idea came when his father-in-law died suddenly and Itami and his wife had to arrange the funeral. Their experience became the film, with Mrs Itami, Nobuko Miyamoto, playing the wife in it.

Although specifically about contemporary, urbanized Japanese coping with Buddhist rituals with which they have lost touch, most of the situations are recognizably and comically universal. The family reunion sparks off disputes and dramas; a lot of *sake* is consumed; and a lot of money changes hands as the undertakers and funeral directors move in.

The film is full of fine comic touches. Itami says that some people in Japan have accepted *Death - Japanese Style* as an instructional film, rather than the beautifully shrewd comedy of manners that it is.

Menahem Golan of Cannon films is the only major movie mogul who actually makes films himself. His sheer energy generally carries his action films, melodramas and comedies; but energy alone is not enough for the weightier stuff of *Hanna's War*, which Golan produced, directed and wrote, as well as acting in.

Undoubtedly he had a personal commitment to his biography of an Israeli national heroine. Hanna Senesh, born into a family of Hungarian Jewish intellectuals, emigrated to Palestine in 1938 when she was 17. In 1944 she was parachuted into German-occupied territory for commando work with a group organized by the RAF. Captured by the Hungarian fascist authorities, she was interrogated, tortured, put on trial and summarily executed as the Soviet forces were entering Budapest.

Shot in Hungary, the film is painstakingly designed and staged; and photographed by one of the world's great cinematographers, the Hungarian Elemér Ragályi. The actors - Maruschka Detmers as Hanna, Ellen Burstyn as her mother, David Warner as a Hungarian fascist officer, Donald Pleasance as a smiling sadist - tackle their roles with evident sincerity.

All in vain, given Golan's script, a child-like piece of historical dramatization, rambling and structureless.

Based on a play by Michael Palfi and Terry Jones, the story of *Consuming Passions* had the makings of good black comedy. Done with Monty Python style it could have worked. As it is, it has an aimless script by Paul D. Zimmerman and Andrew Davies, unfocused direction by Giles Fegor, and a good cast (Tyler Burrekett, Jonathan Fyfe, Freddie Jones, Thora Hird and Vanessa Redgrave, in a humiliatingly silly role) trapped in comic stereotypes.

CONCERTS

Watching the music

Steve Reich
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The second concert in the South Bank's Steve Reich series showed again how much we have been missing in hearing his pieces only in record. For this is music to be watched: not only because a stage rippling with vibraphones and marimbas has a particular glamour, not only because the performance of percussive music goes on with a mechanical sort of drama, but also, and more importantly, because the actions of the performers provide essential clues to what is happening.

Take the case of *Sexer*, the last and biggest piece in this programme. It is almost impossible for the ear alone to distinguish the patterns played by each of two vibraphonists in unison canon, for example; but the eye picks them out without difficulty. Similarly, in the classically elegant *Music for Pieces of Wood*, the sight of the five players striking their sticks allows one to hear the piece as much more than a quick dissolve of ordered rhythms into rainstorms of blows.

Three other pieces that have been heard so far make the point quite forcibly, since the seen is combined with the unseen, a soloist playing against a bevy of like instruments on tape: on Sunday the *New York Counterpoint*, played by the clarinetist Mort Silver, here the set was crowded with the flute piece *Vermont Counterpoint* (Sebastian Bell) and the guitar's *Electric Counterpoint* (David Tannenbaum). In each case, part of the fun was in picking out what the live soloist was actually playing, following his path through the labyrinth. Music that on record seems severe, monochrome and rigid became, on the contrary, fluid and delightful.

But the eye provides no assistance at all in the case of *Four Organs*, nor is any needed, since this essential, fundamental Reich piece of 1970 lays itself open to purely aural inspection: the four players start out with staccato chords and then gradually, by extending notes, fill in space over a period of 20 minutes. Here an English group, Goode, gave us a strong-willed drive into the dawn time of minimalism.

Paul Griffiths

OPERA

Falstaff
Covent Garden

Last month the new Welsh National Opera *Falstaff* was received with great warmth and pleasure, notably here by John Higgins. Expectations on Monday night, when the production received the first of three performances in London, were possibly a little too high, though if there was a worm of disappointment in the delight, that may have been due to a touch of road-weariness on stage and behind the scenes.

But never mind: the chief distinctions of this *Falstaff* - its intimately choreographed exuberance, its vital leading performances and its sunset atmosphere of final comedy and comic finale - were very much in evidence. Peter Stein's alertness to the life in the music produces wonderful moments, like Falstaff's strut for his first monologue, which is also our first opportunity to view his superb belly in profile; only very occasionally does the matching of movement to music become overdone.

What is also remarkable is Stein's differentiation of the degrees of life in the characters. The merry wives, though merry indeed, are tall ladies whose costumes of tan and black cause them to blend into the timber-framed set. Suzanne Murphy as Alice and Wendy Verro as Meg give amused, spirited and richly pointed performances, but they are creatures of the stage, quite distinct from Cynthia Buchanan's Quickly, a gypsy who has wandered into the theatre, or from Nuccia Focile's vivacious Italian girl of a Nannetta.

None of them could exist, though, without the obliging presence of Falstaff, who smilingly agrees to be the butt of what is very much his own comedy. Donald Maxwell's performance is complete: he has the stance, the set, the laughter and of course the voice of the lord of unruly; even when his singing has a dark energy, it seems to relish the absurdity of the situation.

David Malis's strong Ford is also totally secure, vocally and dramatically. Laurence Dale's Fenton, often finely beautiful, was not quite so settled. The orchestra, under Richard Armstrong, maintain a high profile.

P.G.

Song and dance magic

THEATRE

Brigadoon
Victoria Palace

In the 40 years since its first production, Lerner and Loewe's Highland fairy-tale has become a byword for the American musical's flight from life: a bland romance, insulated from the hard-boiled realities of *Gypsy* and *Dolls* and *Pal Joey*. To proclaim the merits of this, their first Broadway hit, the authors sub-titled it, "a whimsical musical fantasy".

Encountering the show for the first time in Roger Redford's smashing revival, I am struck by the barefaced mendacity of that description. Two game-hunting Americans in a Scotch mist find their way into a village not marked on the map. Brigadoon seems a fairly normal place. If the villagers are kitted up to the nines, it is for a wedding party. Everything is down-to-earth; it is not until the romantically predestined Tommy opens a family Bible, and finds the



Man-eater meets US game-hunter: Lesley Mackie and Robin Nedwell

wedding dated 1746, that distant fairy horns start blowing and we learn that Brigadoon only materializes for one day every 100 years.

From that Barrie-esque moment, the book develops so as to charge the melancholy other kingdom of Celtic folklore with the spirit of American optimism.

Appearing three years after *OklaHoma!*, this is a book musical that still exhibits Loewe's Viennese origins as well as Lerner's ultra-smooth lyrical ingenuity. In that idiom, its numbers abound in melody that sustains the sensation of awakening joy. "Almost Like Being in Love" is only the best known. And they justify their interruptions of the narrative because the feeling is genuine. But the central idiom is Scots-American; the folk idiom is discreetly bent, not trampled under foot.

Visually, Scottish dancing is the

mainstay of the show; particularly by Ian Mackenzie Stewart and the other men, who tear into sword dances and reels, with fiery delicacy, articulating toe and heel steps as though the legs had no body-weight to carry. Agnes de Mille's dances, choreographed by Tommy Shaw, are the main source of the magic.

The production is also well-endowed with accomplished musical-comedy voices; soaringly ardent from Robert Meadmore's Tommy, and his Celtic partner Jacinta Mulcahy; gussily agile from Lesley Mackie as Brigadoon's resident man-eater. Martin Johns evokes the place not only with picturesque revolving ruins, but also with a fine display of the neglected art of scenery painting.

Irving Wardle

The House of Blue Leaves
Lilian Baylis

Lilian Baylis, the mother of the subsidized British stage, has had a long wait before getting a theatre of her own: but here it is at last, a friendly and comfortable 200-seater, quarried out of a derelict property at the back of her old Sadler's Wells home, and staffed with its own company and director, Nick Hamm, pledged to drama, music, and attachment to the community.

You would hardly deduce that from Hamm's opening show: a bankably cast production of a New York hit of the 1970s, evidently aiming for a West End transfer. But the real danger is the piece itself. Its author, John Guree, came up *The House of Blue Leaves* with the question, "Why shouldn't Strindberg and Feydeau get married?" But what emerged last night rather suggested a misalliance between O'Neill and Saurin: a plot of relentless brute egotism held at bay by evasive whimsicality.

Artie, a Central Park zoo-

keeper, has reached middle age with nothing to show for it apart from a Queens apartment, an alienated son, and an unhinged wife. He gets his fix from doing solo talent spots in a local bar; and now he has acquired an ambitious mistress, who is all for having the wife committed and dragging the song-writing Artie off to California, to exploit his boyhood friendship with a film producer.

Once let loose, the American Dream runs through the characters like an epidemic. Only celebrities exist, they all agree, with the exception of the "mad" wife, whom Artie finally strangles (and at last achieves his spotlight). The eagerness and thematic overkill of the story are offset by ingratiating direct address, quirkish character detail, and by the avoidance of any response expressing direct pain.

Denis Quilley offers a desperately debonaire Artie, supplying his own confidently vamped accompaniments on the leopard-skin-backed upright. Helen Lederer, Harry Towh, and Nickolas McAuliffe are among others whose it would be a pleasure to see in a better play.

L.W.

JAZZ

Broad appeal

Jimmy Heath Quartet
Ronnie Scott's Club

A saxophonist with all the right bop credentials, including stints with Dizzy Gillespie and Miles Davis, Jimmy Heath caused a stir in the mid-1970s when he defected to the fusion camp. Aided and abetted by his brothers Percy and Al, he also demonstrated that "crossover" music could be more than just a way of making money.

Heath's current band presents a cosy mixture of the old and new traditions. With no pianist at hand, the leader shares the solo burdens with Tony Furrone, a guitarist whose crisp, blues-inflected technique generally avoids blandness. The drummer, Akira Tana, switches comfortably between deft brushwork and a more propulsive funk backbeat.

An undemonstrative tenor player, fond of flowing legato phrases, Heath jogged along at mid-tempo, demonstrating his well-known talents as an arranger with an opening number based on "Autumn Leaves". Randy Weston's standard "High Fly" received equally gentle treatment. The sole disappointment in the first set was the unadventurous choice of "Round Midnight".

To some extent, the band was upstaged by the support set from the singer Sue Shattock, backed by a fusion group led by the keyboard player Terry Disley. Following her recent club performances around London, Shattock has been touted as the country's best jazz vocalist.

An effective and economical scat singer, she is just as confident with a ballad as she is with "Friends and Lovers", a Disley-Shattock composition, proved an excellent vehicle for the singer and the saxophonist Chris Davies. With material along these lines and a touch more charisma, she should soon be winning audiences beyond the jazz world.

Clive Davis

Halle/ Skowczewski
Festival Hall

If one has to name a Russian work first heard in 1913 that caused its listeners to be "frozen with fright, hair standing on end", it might well be *The Rite of Spring*. In fact it was Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No 2 in G Minor, given its premiere in St Petersburg just four months after that of the *Rite*. An uncompromising work it is, too, and if it seemed a particularly bold piece of programming planning to put the two works together, as Stanislaw Skowczewski and the Halle Orchestra did on Tuesday night, there was at least a sop for the sweeter-toned with the inclusion of Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture *Romeo and Juliet*.

Audience reaction to both the Stravinsky and the Prokofiev has modified over the years, and certainly the latter - even if it has never attained the popularity of the first or third concertos - scarcely seems especially rebarbative these days. Indeed a fine and technically assured - as we heard from Rafael Orozco - can be an exhilarating experience. The extraordinary development section of the first movement, which consists largely of a ferociously difficult cadenza for the soloist, may well have caused a few hairs to stand on end, but Orozco dispatched it without flinching, and still had energy left for the Scherzo immediately following - a toccata-like *moto perpetuo*, and another brilliant encounter from which he emerged the victor.

Had the sharpness of attack that characterized that performance been carried over to *The Rite of Spring*, we might have had a much more memorable interpretation. As it was, for most of the first part at least, it all seemed a bit tame. With the Dance of the Earth, momentum began to be accumulated, and passages of the second part, including the climactic Ritual Dance, attained something of the requisite savagery.

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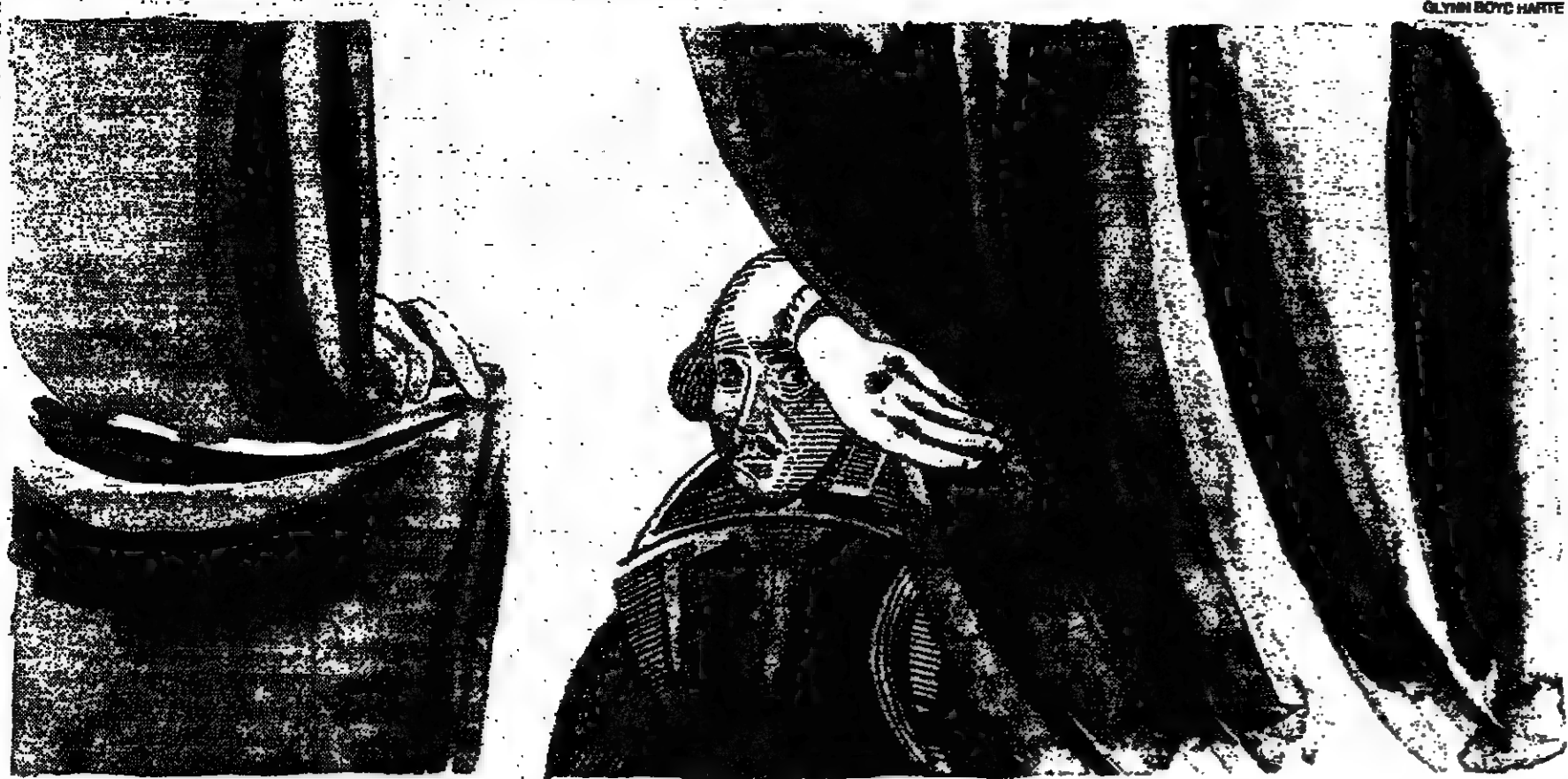
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BOOKS

Peter Ackroyd on a life of Shakespeare and the question of where the poetry came from



OLIVER BOYD HART

From thin air

It is almost impossible to write the life of William Shakespeare — not because there is a paucity of information (that has never stopped anyone before) but rather because the known facts seem so bland and exiguous compared with the extraordinary fullness of his writing. Almost any other writer you care to name — Keats, James, Orwell, Johnson — had an existence which can at least seem commensurate with the work. Even Shakespeare's contemporaries, like Donne or Marlowe, have almost as resonant a presence in the world as they do in their words, but not Shakespeare. He slides away, slips off the page, vanishes.

This is not the fault of Peter Levi, whose new biography recounts in vivid and often illuminating fashion all the available evidence. Here is the boy growing up in Stratford, marrying his pregnant girl-friend at the age of 18, travelling to London and there emerging some three or four years later as actor and dramatist. He acquired fame quickly and easily, and was rich enough at the age of 33 to buy a large house in his native town. From then on the record is that of a successful "family man" and landowner, equally at home in London or in the country, presiding over the normal affairs of a prosperous landowner and dying in peace with himself and with the world at the age of 52. In addition, all the contemporary evidence suggests

that in fact he was precisely what he appeared to be — good-humoured, frank, honest, studious, funny, gentle, a good businessman, and a faithful public servant. And yet somehow in the course of this relatively placid life he wrote *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest*, and other plays too numerous to mention.

So how does the biographer deal with this unique problem? Peter Levi has decided, wisely, to place Shakespeare firmly within his period — particularly within the context of a kinship system which is generally difficult for a contemporary reader to understand. It takes a definite effort of the historical imagination to retrieve this passage of English history, but Levi manages to do so — not so brilliantly as Rowe in his *Shakespeare the Man* or with as much detail as Schoenbaum in his *William Shakespeare*, but nonetheless he is convincing enough in his account of plagiarism and paranoias, of intrigue and despair in an Elizabethan world where the dominant images seem to be those of blind Fortune and Time's wheel.

The best passages in this book, therefore, are those which most

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
By Peter Levi
Macmillan, £16.95

closely evoke the past — particularly those years when Shakespeare was the young playwright living in a lodging house on the south bank, part of a London in which crazy astrology, superstition, medicine, and genuine science flourished together. Levi's critical discussions are also interesting, although once again his historical and semi-biographical allusions are more significant than those of a purely literary nature. I suspect, however, that this has as much to do with conventional literary criticism as with Professor Levi — it has become an uninteresting activity, and this author is at his best when he avoids it. That is why some of his truest comments are not specifically about the plays themselves — when, for example, he says of Shakespeare that "He is in everything and everywhere an outsider: he is not at home in the world." Or when he remarks of his intellect

that it "is savage, searching and sceptical".

But the central problem still remains — from where did Shakespeare's poetry come? Clearly as a boy he was an omnivorous reader, just as it is demonstrably true that he coincided with a period in which the language itself was growing more capacious and when drama itself had become what Levi calls "a new force". But that does not explain the source of Shakespeare's genius: no conditions can ever really seem appropriate to it. Levi speculates that Shakespeare had the run of John Stow's library, just in order to explain the amount that the dramatist knew. But how much more astonishing is the range of his language, at once so rich and so exact, so descriptive and yet so melodic that the cadences of the verse seem themselves to become a form of perception.

But from where did this poetry come? It is the inescapable but unanswerable question — Shakespeare seems almost ordinary in any biographical account, but he could not have been "ordinary" at all, unless one is willing to make some irrevocable separation between the art and the life. Or is it

possible, after all, that he was in almost a literal sense inspired — often writing against time and uttering a language which he did not fully understand, the sources of which were as mysterious to him as they remain to us? "As for poetry," Levi suggests, "he seems to have been able to summon that out of the air whenever he chose to do so". Which in turn leads to the overwhelming conclusion that, to the great poet, poetry may come easily. And if it should come almost cheaply, in the sense that no expenditure of labour or agony is needed to produce it, does that explain why many great poets — Eliot is one example — treat it with such suspicion and often with such scant respect? Is that why Shakespeare was a landowner rather than a Bohemian? The important things in his life seem always to be those quotidian and common matters that linked him to other people.

Of course all this comes perilously close to the Romantic Fallacy of the naive genius warbling woodnotes wild; but, in the case of Shakespeare, surely it is possible for a highly disciplined and self-conscious artist (for there is no doubt that he was both of these) at the same time to remain only in relatively loose control of the actual texture of his writing? It is the merit of Levi's book that he raises such questions: it is the mystery of Shakespeare's life that he seems most fully to embody them.

Recesses of female hearts

Andrew Sinclair

THE HIGH ROAD
By Edna O'Brien
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95

LOVE IN THE DAYS OF RAGE
By Lawrence Ferlinghetti
The Bodley Head, £11.95

TRACKS
By Louise Erdrich
Hamish Hamilton, £11.95

EL INFERNO
By Carlos Martinez Moreno
Readers International, £9.95

Every village, a Spanish waiter says in *The High Road*, has its mountain Carmen. One of these girls, Catalina, provokes a modern drama of passion and revenge involving Edna O'Brien's heroine, in flight to a sea town of expatriates who are also in flight from themselves. Miss O'Brien has always been the bard of the bereft, of women suffering from hopeless loves. But in her maturity, she has developed a richness and sensuality in her descriptions, also an intensity in her definitions of feeling, as if a magnifying glass now concentrated a sunray on her characters. Her lost women, ageing debutantes or international coquette or vague artist, smoulder and burn. The light turned on them illuminates and blinds. In a succession of scrutinies of the relationships between rootless women, Miss O'Brien explores the recesses of the human heart, and then condemns the inquisitions.

Another pleasure in *The High Road* is the comedy. A dandy painter called D'Arcy talks like James Joyce revived and behaves like John Minton ossified. His account of a failed affair with the intolerable Iris displays a gift of the gab worthy of *Finnegans Wake*. "Presently stump goes into sulkato," he intones, proving that his author is a commander of the serried ranks of language. *The High Road* celebrates the summer of a gifted author.

I remember Lawrence Ferlinghetti from the Beat days and the City Lights Bookshop in San Francisco, when the words and the nights never came to an end, and they never do in *Love in the Days of Rage*, which is set in Paris in 1968, and all about the affair of an American painter and hard-eyed dreamer called Annie with an anarchist banker called Julian, who believes that the Social Contract is a bill of goods and the State is a Social Lie, and he supports the *enragé* student revolt, when cobbles were for chucking and the slogans read I'M A GROUCHO MARXIST AND EMBRACE YOUR LOVER WITHOUT DROPPING YOUR GUN, but it is really a story about him leaving her messages such as "I love you like myself" and "If you tell me love is all an illusion — then it is", but this love is not an illusion, the city is about to be saved by Poetry Police, and though the State won't wither away, people are with hunger, so the barricades go up and the Odion blazes with speeches, and Annie plays at being Rosa Luxemburg and Emma Goldman as the students fight the police, and it is the first halting cry of what will burst forth 20 years later and be called Green Power, and the banker decides to blow up the train with all of the Bank of France's assets aboard, and even this is a review of an evocative and poetic short novel with a style which recalls the reader to days of rage and love and romantic revolution and to the particular aged innocence that Mr Ferlinghetti represents to the young at heart.

Louise Erdrich's mother was

from the Chippewa tribe, and *Tracks* is the third book in a quartet about the experience of Indian families at the time of the First World War. The direct, fierce narrative tells strange stories about Fleur Pillager, who twice drowns in Lake Matchimanito and returns to life to bedevil her enemies. She uses the strength of the black underwaters as a resource against the tribesmen, who are decimated by disease, demoralized by drink, and selling off their forest reserves for a few dollars.

Axes and saws and the lumber trade are vandalizing the birthright of the Indians, who cannot resist. Scenes of slaughterhouses and poker games, sows fighting men and typhoons destroying shanties, fascinate and repel with their raw immediacy. *Tracks* does lead to a wild world of imagination and sensation.

If anything is hell on earth it is *El Infierno*, which is based on accounts by the victims of the "vast torture chamber" made out of Uruguay after the revolt of the Tupamaros. The novelist Carlos Martinez Moreno was forced into exile and presented in these anguished chronicles of pain such pictures of the bestiality of men that the pages reek with agony. The value of the book is that the *guerrillas* are no heroes. They also kidnap and terrorize, they are foolish and even frail. The Grand Inquisitors are the North American advisers who have turned interrogation into an execution skill. The practice of torture may be programmed and presented like a lecture on management techniques. The slow murder of soaked vagrants by catleprods is incidental to the demonstration of the correct psychological methodology.

These fictionalized case histories of people undergoing torture or humiliation wrench and sicken, yet they finally testify to the long endurance and exemplary courage of all those who survive the brutality of the State. *El Infierno* was awarded a prize by the new Ministry of Culture of the recent democratic Uruguayan government; but the author had already died. He still bears witness in this work to the cries of suffering from the jails and prison camps of 100 countries, where the police still thank science chiefly for the refinements which it has added to the black arts of Torquemada.

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ROBERT HALE

Apology for the bad lion

Nicholas Beeston

ASAD OF SYRIA
The Struggle for the Middle East
By Patrick Seale
J.B. Tauris, £17.95

After nearly 30 years of writing about Syria, Patrick Seale has developed a unique insight into one of the region's most influential and inaccessible countries and a personal relationship with its enigmatic leader Hafez Assad. His latest work is the culmination of a series of interviews with Assad, members of his family and senior figures in the Syrian leadership who have helped shape post-mandate Syria since 1946.

Seale begins the biography in the impoverished Alawite Muslim mountain village of Qunayra where the Assad (Iion) family are minor clan leaders, and charts the course of Hafez Assad from his schooling, to his entry into the Syrian air force as a pilot and his first interest in politics. The Syrian leader cuts his political teeth in the cells of Damascus prison, in the conspiratorial atmosphere of the officers' mess, and emerges by the 1970s as one of the shrewdest and most ruthless Arab leaders, as capable of ordering his troops to put down an uprising with the loss of thousands of innocent lives as he is at playing politics.

Seale's great access into Assad's life has resulted in a highly detailed but subjective biography. This is particularly clear in the final chapter dealing with terrorism, where the author attempts to exonerate his subject from some of the more notorious outrages which have been consistently linked to Syria or its surrogates.

Hannah Gluckstein, born 1895 into a prosperous North (or East) London family which had been instrumental in founding the J. Lyons empire, did not at all like being Hannah Gluckstein, or, indeed, being a girl. She would not, even in her teens, be called Hannah; her family nickname, Hig, sounded acceptably genderless.

In her early twenties she was calling herself Peter, smoking a pipe, and dressing completely in male attire (though only such as a very well-beeled male could aspire to wear). In her early forties she was known as Tina. And professionally she was known simply as Gluck.

And what sort of profession might this weird being have followed? Well, she might have done something stereotypically horsey or doggy, but in fact as a child she evinced noticeable artistic talent, both musical and graphic. She insisted on going to art school: not the Slade, which was felt to be too libertarian, but St John's Wood, where, ironically, she found Craig, her first female associate with independent ideas and only a surname to show for herself.

After that, Avenue Road was too constricting, so she ran away to artistic Cornwall, pursued by paternal means and recriminations and, after a decent interval for reflection, a qualified blessing

Square peg and painter

John Russell Taylor

GLUCK
By Diana Souhami
Pondra, £19.95

and a secured income of her own. She was fated to become a painter. Between the wars she was a notable figure in the London art world, and the social world too. She exhibited regularly at the Fine Art Society; she was a successful portraitist, mainly of women; her flower pieces were justly famed, complementing the all-white interiors of her friend Syrie Maugham and the flower-arrangements of her more-than-fixed Constance Spry.

But then, towards the end of the Thirties, things began to sour. First she developed a sort of quasi-symbolic fixation with the deteriorating quality of artists' materials, particularly canvas.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

Doctors and Diseases in the Roman Empire, by Ralph Jackson (British Museum, £17.50) Early medicine in the texts and archaeology.

Pile, by John Gifford (Viking, £17.95) Architectural's Pevsner guide.

Modern Ireland 1600-1972, by R. F. Foster (Allen Lane, £18.95).

Napoleon & Hitler, by Desmond Seward (Harrap, £14.95) Comparative biography of the historical cliché: up to a point, Professor Copper.

The Collected Letters of Thomas Hardy, edited by Richard Little Purdy & Michael Millgate (Oxford, £29.50) Vol. VII, 1925-1927.

The Faber Book of Letters, edited and introduced by Felix Pryor (Faber, £12.95) Anthology of babel of voices rescued from history.

The Grove Concise Dictionary of Music, edited by Stanley Sadie (Macmillan, £19.95) 20 standard vols crammed into one big book.

Three Uneasy Pieces, by Patrick White (Cape, £7.95) Tiny but profound little pieces about senility & unreason of age by Nobel laureate.

Toulouse-Lautrec, The Complete Graphic Works, by Götz Adriani (Thames & Hudson, £36) The comprehensive German catalogue raisonné.

Unexpected Journeys, The Art and Life of Remedios Varo, by Janet A. Kaplan (Virago, £25) Spanish Surrealist painter and exile, 1908-68.

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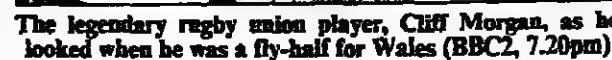
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FROM ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS

TELEVISION CHOICE



● The last word on Switzerland was uttered most notably by Harry Lime/Orson Welles in *The Third Man*. "Five hundred years of peace and prosperity to produce the cuckoo clock," writes *Chris Peril*. Swiss cinema, though occasionally notable, still swans its masterpiece, though Fredi Murer's 1985 film, *Alpine Fureur* (CA, 115mp), might well be it: an extraordinary blend of documentary realism (harsh farming life in a remote valley through the changing seasons) and surrealism (passion, incest, murder). Buñuel would have approved, absolutely.

Radio 3

VHF stereo and MW (medium wave)
News on the half-hour from
6:00 until 6:30pm, then at
10:30 and 12:30pm
5.30 Adrian John 7.00 Simon
Mayo 8.30 Simon Bates 12.30
Newsbeat (Simon Leach)
12.45 Gary Davies 3.00 Steve
Wright 5.30 Newsbeat 5.45
Bruno Brookes 7.00 Top of
the Pops (with BBC1) 7.30 Almost
Going Live on Radio 1 with: Philip
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Radio 2

What songs and how (medium news)

News on the hour

4.00 Steve Madden 5.30 Chris Stuart 7.30 Derek Jameson 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.00 Jimmy Young 1.05 David Jacobs 2.05 Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Adrian Love 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Wally Whiston 8.00 Lon Satton's Gospel Jubilee 10.00 The News Hudlines 10.30 Humoresque (new series) with Tony Capstick 11.00 Brian Matthews with Round Midnight 1.00 Bob Rammell with Nightride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

[illegible]

RADIO CHOICE



● No man is better placed to understand James Roosevelt than the woman who has to serve the role of fitful in the relationship between theatre and religion. He is both stage director and worker-piece, and this week's *Conversations* (Radio 4, 11.25am) benefits considerably from having two interviewees for the price of one — three if you add the actor in Roosevelt's life and four if you include the writer/adaptor (*Re-Jocelyne Cider* with Rosie) in him. What all this adds up to as well as a wide-ranging edition of *Conversations* Piece is that James MacGregor, the interviewee, had to do at least twice, much homework as usual to cope with the *four* Roosevelt-Evanses. Like them, she has acquired some useful insights about the importance of spiritual in the field of communication. This could explain why she absorbs the news with aplomb when Rose-Evans reveals that he was once a spiritual agony aunt on a women's magazine and would ask some top friends of his to join him in praying for the readers whose problems were spiritual to his priestly and journalistic mills.

● Also warmly recommended: Alexander Walker's profile of James Stewart in *Film Star* (Radio 4, 12.25pm).

**"Skiing the Himalayas is
one for the birds."**

Or so I thought.
To be honest I'd thought the Himalayas too massive, too far and too wild to ski—even for me. How wrong could I be.
Massive they are, but I intended to ski down, not clamber up. Far? India is just nine hours flight from Heathrow. And as for wild, Gulmarg, India's premier winter sports resort (although skiiing new frontier) features a choice of comfortable hotels.

More to the point, for those free spirits who long for untrodden vistas of powder snow, Gulmarg is the base for heli-skiing to breathtaking high-altitude snowfields. A few hours of that and your concept of a good day on the slopes changes forever.

Now I can't wait to get back. Apart from skiing that's out of this world, I haven't seen the Abominable Snowman.

Yvni



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

7172 50 00 PM

1167 10/20/94



ONLY 9 HOURS AWAY.

ITV/LONDON

00 **Ceecee Aft.**
00 **Leon Errol in Let's Go Stepping** (b/w). 6.55 Weather.
00 **Breakfast Time** with John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news from 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.50; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air**. Bob Wellings and Mike Shaft receive viewers' comments on yesterday's television programmes 9.20
00 **Kilroy's Robert Kilroy-Silk** chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
00 **News and weather** followed by **Going for Gold**. European quiz series (r). 10.25 **Children's BBC** introduced by Andy Crane begins with **Playbox** 10.30
00 **What's the Latest?** (r). 10.55 **Five to Eleven**. Patricia Hayes with a reading.
00 **News and weather** followed by **Open Air** presented by Mavis Nicholson and Bob Wellings.
00 **News and weather** followed by **Daytime Live**. Magazine series introduced by Alan Richmond and Judi Spiers 12.55 Regional news and weather.
00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. Weather. 1.30 **Neighbours**. Mrs Mangel announces she is going to see Des and Debraine 1.50 **Going for Gold**. Quarantinal round of the European general knowledge quiz. The questionmaster is Henry Kelly.
00 **1.15 Film: The First Legion** (1951, b/w) starring Charles Boyer and William Demarest. Drama set in a small town Jesuit sanctuary where it seems that a young priest is miraculously cured - but one of his colleagues doubts the authenticity. Directed by Douglas Sirk 4.40 **End of the Road**. Screen presented by Rob Carling (r).
00 **Charles Clark** with the Voices of Michael Williams, Brian Leigh-Hunt and John Wells 4.20 **The Swindle** 4.30 **Beatle Teacher**. Quiz game. 4.35 **10.00** **News**. Episode 20 of the 10-part comedy series.
00 **News** at 5.45 on the Pacific. Yvette Fielding visits Seattle and the Boeing factory which is the biggest building in the world. (Caption) 5.55 **Neighbours** (r).
00 **Six O'Clock News** with Nicholas Witcher and Mike Smart. Weather.
00 **6.35** **London Plus**.
00 **7.00** **Top of the Pops** introduced by Simon Mayo and Andrea Turner. (Simultaneous broadcast on stereo Radio 1)
00 **7.30** **EastEnders**. Sharon has an unnerving encounter with Det Sgt West; and David gives confidential advice on separate matters to Matthew and Duncan.
00 **8.00** **Tomorrow's World** includes a report on the dangers to suborb or sunlamp users; Peter Mascanti travels on a ferry with a computerized steering system; and Howard Stableford demonstrates a car shower that uses water from the heat exchanger.
00 **8.30** **The Fifth**. Comedy series starring David Essex. (Caption)
00 **8.50** **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.
00 **9.05** **News** with Marilyn Lewis and Mike Smart. Regional news and weather.
00 **9.35** **The Lenny Henry Show**. Debrai has a stay in hospital. (Caption)
00 **10.05** **Question Time**. Sir Robin Day's guests are Jonathan Potts, Anne Lennox and MPs Tony Blair and Michael Portillo.
00 **11.05** **News** with Michael Portillo. French radio music magazine presented by Antoine de Caunes.
00 **11.35** **The Untouchables** (b/w). Eliot Ness and his team battle with New York prohibition racketeers.
00 **12.00am** **Weather**.

CHANNEL 4

9.00 **Cee'az** **9:20** **Drums** on **Two**: **chickens** **stake** a **crime** by **wrecking** out **ridges** **4:40** **Information** **technology** **10:00** **Science**: **analyzing** **10:25** **Thinkabout**: **10:40** **Measurement** **11:00** **Mary**, **Queen** of **Scots** **11:30** **Concrete** in **the** **cars** **11:40** **The** **lure** of **motor** **cars** **12:10** **Trigonometry** **12:30** **Issues** **12:55** **The** **Technical** and **Imaginary** **Initiative**.

1.35 **Police** **Officers** and **the** **Miss** **Men** (**r.** **1:40** **Music** **Time** (**r.** **2:00** **News** and **weather** followed by **Watch** (**r.**

2.15 **One** **Man** **and** **His** **Dog**, **Heist** **Two** **Men** **and** **Three** **Shoguns** (**r.** **2:40** **News** and **weather** followed by **The** **Musik** **Connection**: **A** **World** **about** **Us** **documentary** on **the** **substance** **that** **is** **three** **times** **more** **valuable** **than** **gold** (**r.**

3.50 **News**, **regional** **news** and **weather**

4.00 **R** **Kidder**. **The** **first** **episode** of **the** **medical** **drama** **series** (**r.**

4.25 **Travelers** **in** **Time**. **The** **first** **episode** **of** **the** **television** **series** **11:45** **Rock** **Altitude**. **The** **second** of **three** **films** **on** **rock** **climbing** (**r.**

5.25 **Holiday** **Outings**, **Denmark** (**r.**

5.35 **Country** **File** (**r.**

6.00 **Flam**: **The** **Men** **Who** **Could** **Work** **Miracles** (**1938**, **b/w**) **starring** **Rolland** **Young** and **Storin** **Richardson**. **Based** **on** **an** **H. G. Wells** **tale**, **the** **story** **of** **a** **doctor's** **assistant** **who** **is** **endowed** **with** **miraculous** **powers**, **Directed** **by** **Lothar** **Mendes**.

7.30 **Minstros** **Carl** **Morgan**. (**see** **Choice**)

8.00 **Open** **Space**: **Women** **of** **God**. **The** **movement** **for** **the** **ordination** **of** **women** **put** **their** **case** (**r.**

8.20 **Top** **Gun** **includes** **a** **test** **drive** **of** **the** **new** **air** **force** **fighter** **jet** **11:00** **Alkali** **Sayer's** **Stuff**. **Off-beat** **comedy** **series**

8.30 **40** **Minutes**: **I** **Want** **to** **Live**: **The** **story** **of** **a** **woman's** **fight** **against** **cancer** (**Cee'az**)

10.10 **Nothing** **by** **Chance**. **Comedy** **and** **songs** **from** **Gilly** **Derbey** **and** **Keith** **Donnelly**

10.40 **A** **Party** **Political** **Broadcast** **on** **behalf** **of** **the** **Conservative** **Party** **Newsnight** **11:00** **Weather**

11.25 **Boize** **92**: **Pop** **concert** (**r.** **Ends** **at** **12.15pm**

- 9.30 Schools.**
- 12.00 The Parliament Programme** presented by Glyn Matthias and Alistair Stewart.
- 1.2.30 Business Daily.** Financial and business news service.
- 1.00 Politics.** Part one of an Open College course on car purchase and maintenance (r). (Oracle)
- 1.30 Powerbase.** The fourth of five programmes on electricity (r). (Oracle)
- 2.00 The Elements From World History.** Part two - Lawrence of Arabia. Presented by the National Theatre of Brent, alias Patrick Barlow and Robert (r).
- 3.00 A People's War.** Part two examines the impact of the Blitz on Britons (r). (Oracle)
- 4.00 Time to Talk.** Gerald Priestland talks to Lesley Gold about his life and religious faith (r).
- 4.30 Fifteen-to-One.** Generali knowledge quiz game.
- 5.00 Baseball.** Highlights of game between the World Series (r).
- 6.00 The Abbott and Costello Show (r/w).** Bud and Lou have trouble with their landlord.
- 6.30 The Sharp End.** This first of a new series presented by Carol Barnes includes a report on the Sunderland shipyards facing closure; and news from Hungary where the Communist authorities are accused of trying to clamp free trade unions.
- 7.00 Magazine 4 News** with Peter Sessions and Nicholas Owen. Weather. 7.50 Comment.
- 8.00 Hot Property.** Magazine series for home sellers.
- 8.30 A Different World.** American college comedy.
- 9.00 Tanner '88.** The final episode of the superior satirical comedy about the Democratic presidential nomination campaign starring Michael Murphy and written by Garry Trudeau.
- 10.00 True Stories:** Garry Gershenson. A documentary series by David and Albert Maysles, in which two eccentrics - Jacqueline Onassis's aunt and cousin who live together in a barely habitable mansion on Long Island - reminisce (r). (Oracle)
- 11.50 Film: Alpha Fire (1985).** (see Choice). Ends at 3.00am

ATIONS

[illegible]

COUNTRY LIFE

This week in COUNTRY LIFE

Ripples on the reservoir: can wildlife survive privatisation?
Coaxing British llamas to co-operate.
Huntin', shootin' and paintin'.
A pier or a Poussin? The dilemma of Britain's heritage.
Rainforest riches.

Plus the usual informed coverage of the property market, architecture, wildlife, sport and fashion.

EVERY THURSDAY

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/265m; 1069kHz/275m; VHF 89-90.2
Radio 2: 683kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; VHF 88-90.2 Radio 3: 1215kHz/
247m; VHF 80-82.5 Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; VHF 82-85 LBC: 1152kHz/
261m; VHF 97.3, Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF 85.8, Greater London Radio
1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service: M-F 648kHz/468m.

Peter Davalle

Fleet of canoes search for ferry survivors



Fishermen in the Philippines directing their canoes towards the area about 200 miles south of Manila where the ferry Dona Marilyn sank, to join the search for survivors of the disaster.

From Humphrey Hawksley
Manila

Rescue officials said yesterday that about 150 people had been found safe after the ferry disaster in the Philippines on Monday, when the M.V. Dona Marilyn sank in a typhoon 300 miles south of Manila. Dozens of fishermen in canoes joined yesterday's search and helped

survivors ashore. The ferry's owner, Sulphur Lines, said 120 people were on the remote Almagro island, near the eastern province of Samar. Many swam with life-jackets after abandoning the ferry at the height of the storm. Others arrived in life-boats or were picked up by the fishermen.

Mr Alberto Oteiza, aged 29, said

he was knocked overboard as the ferry capsized. He was wearing a life-jacket and his wife and two children clung to him, but they had slipped from him when they became tired.

Relatives of other victims gathered outside the company's offices in Manila. But despite initial optimism, many soon realized that

their families may be among the estimated 300 people still missing.

President Aquino ordered an investigation. The Dona Marilyn's sister ship, Dona Paz, sank just before Christmas last year with the loss of an estimated 3,000 lives.

The extent of the damage caused by Typhoon Ruby has become clearer. More than 100 other people

have died, 100,000 are homeless and the rice crop has been severely damaged.

During the storm, Mr James Anderson, aged 58, a Scottish tourist, dived into the sea off Manila to help save the crew of a cargo vessel which broke its moorings. He saw the ship in trouble from his hotel room and raced to the scene.

MPs angry at silence on future of Gurkhas

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The all-party Commons defence select committee angrily dismissed senior Ministry of Defence officials yesterday after they repeatedly failed to answer questions on the future of the Gurkhas.

The committee is to demand that an MoD minister appears before it next week. Should he not decline to answer the questions the scene would be set for a serious clash between Parliament and the executive.

Some MPs fear the MoD has decided over the summer to reduce sharply co-operation with the committee, which produced a string of critical reports before the recess. The committee consulted the MoD before starting this inquiry and is due to depart on a fact-finding visit to Hong Kong and Nepal late next week.

Yesterday's disagreement was over the refusal of Mr Nicholas Bevan, an Assistant

Under-Secretary of State, to say what stage the MoD had reached in deciding on the Gurkhas' future, whether Defence Chiefs of Staff had yet been consulted, and by how much the brigade could be reduced in size and still remain viable.

Mr Bevan cited the established convention that officials do not disclose advice to ministers.

Mr Michael Mates, the committee's Tory chairman, said the questions were straightforward and factual. He adjourned the meeting for 17 minutes after MPs protested.

He said: "I am coming to the conclusion the best thing to do is suspend the meeting. I have never seen it done in the nine years I have served on the committee."

Mr Mates asked Mr Bevan once more if he would answer the questions. Mr Mates aban-

doned the meeting when Mr Bevan refused and said the committee would be summoning a minister.

An MoD spokesman insisted that the MoD had given the committee a full memorandum on the background to the Gurkhas and had made clear that the Gurkhas had a future.

"There is only a question about the scale of that future. Clearly ministers will take a judgement after consulting professional military and civilian advisers. It is quite against the rules for officials to answer questions on that judgement before ministers have considered their advice."

He denied the MoD was withdrawing co-operation from the committee and said a minister would happily appear before the committee next week.

The Gurkhas' principal base is in Hong Kong where British sovereignty ends in 1997.

Political prisoners to be freed

Continued from page 1

Shevardnadze's visit to Paris earlier this month.

Herr Kohl noted yesterday that Bonn's agreement was conditional on the Kremlin meeting the accepted standards for such conferences, "and providing that further substantial conditions will be clarified."

West Germany's acceptance of a Moscow conference leaves only Britain and the US among the main powers opposed to the idea. A Whitehall source said that, if the release of political prisoners turned out to be a radical change in Moscow's human rights policy, then Britain might review its objections. But there was scepticism that the Soviet Union would release everyone regarded by the West as a political prisoner.

Herr Kohl said both leaders had instructed their foreign ministers to re-examine the 1971 quadripartite agreement on Berlin, signed by the four allied powers.

Moore fights back with new package

Continued from page 1

figures which he is seeking will not fully honour the Prime Minister's pledge to protect the average liability of those on social security.

"It is another example of this government cheating those who are dependent on it for their income from benefit."

Mr Cook also maintained that on the basis of Mr Moore's figures the national average community charge would be higher than the Government had predicted.

The Department of Social Security responded last night by issuing a statement in which it said that the leaked paper was already out-of-date.

"This is part of a single document, written six weeks ago, at an early stage in negotiations which has been taken out of context and misused."

"The outcome to be announced tomorrow is a fair settlement to compensate all those on income support for their average liability and give

substantially more than that to the majority. This fulfils the Prime Minister's pledge."

The leaked letter will figure prominently in Labour's attack on Mr Moore today. In the annual benefit spending statement he will announce increased resources for the family credit and income support schemes introduced in April, designed specifically to help low-income families in work and poor families out of work.

Those increases, understood to cost well below the £130 million the Government will save by freezing child benefit, will be supplemented by other measures.

Ministers accept that a hard cap up to 30 Conservative MPs could rebel over the child benefit freeze, and they are resigned to a sustained assault on them today from Labour and disaffected Tories.

Senior backbenchers said yesterday that there was far more steam in the expected revolt over the imposition of eye and dental charges.

Political sketch

The question that just faded away

The quality of insolence is not strained. It is demonstrated not by loud raspberries. A shrug of the shoulders, some small courtesy omitted, a without-so-much-as-a-by-your-leave. Thus we notice our fellows with an indifference more eloquent than words.

Sir Peter Emery had a question down about Barlow Clowes. Nothing unusual about that. But something, or someone, had persuaded him that it would be better not to ask it after all, in Wednesday's Questions on Industry.

"He's been got at" yelled Labour's Frank Haynes. Who knows? Even if true, who would condemn? An angry whip in a dark corridor (or, more formidable, a friendly whip over a large whisky) can put a compelling argument.

It's just that there's an unspoken convention that one makes some polite excuse for withdrawing a question. And pressure from the Government would be a rather impolite excuse so far as Mr Speaker is concerned. Mr Speaker encourages the thought that the Government is not entirely in control of what is discussed in the Chamber, even if it can control what is decided. And in this naughty world, a presumption - sadly - does arise that a minute Member is a sycophant. So even if Sir Peter's critics were wrong, it would on the whole have been better for him to have been diplomatically ill.

But here he was, large as life and silent as the grave, as his question was called - or rather not called. Upstairs broke out on the Opposition benches. More interestingly, Sir Peter's Conservative pals looked - shall we say - not as distressed at his discomfort as loyalty perhaps required.

Boys who trip up on their way to hand an apple to the teacher often encounter similar sniggers from their classmates. "I think it would be helpful if a Member who withdraws his question was not in the Chamber," Mr Speaker had remarked. "My money's on Frank," said Dennis Skinner, as Frank Haynes moved menacingly (not that Frank could move menacingly if he tried) across the floor towards Sir Peter, who rose and accompanied him from the Chamber. Later, Sir Peter returned. "A degree of quiet," on

Clowes was needed: "If politicians would be a little quieter," he explained, "then it is just possible that we can be successful."

This is an extraordinary view! I must tell Sir Peter that if politicians would be a little quieter than politicians would be a little redundant.

What, in fact, is it that politicians do? Tony Baldry sidled sickeningly towards this question, then veered away in the nick of time. He was making the point (via a question) that we require professionals to be competent, not just competitive, at what they do. Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark had attacked "restrictive practices" in the professions. But would you want your appendix removed, or your will composed, by a layman, Mr Baldry asked. "Or a politician," someone murmured from a sedentary position. Those of us who heard it, whispered the next question: what would you want done by a politician?

Francis Maude, a junior industry minister, shocked the House by ruling out something that the Thatcher generation thinks politicians can do easily: "We cannot alter geography," he announced to James Wallace, who had inquired how the benefits of 1992 could be brought equally to the whole country. Mr Wallace's Scots modesty kept him from spelling out the real import of his question: whether his constituency of Orkney and Shetland could be brought to within striking distance of the Single European Market.

Simon Hughes' Welsh modesty never stops him from spelling things out. Questions from Mr Hughes are invariably double-barrelled. First comes the moral principle; Mr Hughes' assistance is complete without an appeal to moral principle. Next comes the application of that principle to the case at hand. No Hughes principle is applied without an appeal to the moral principle. In yesterday's questions, Mr Hughes asked how the Government would ensure that the money raised from the sale of the Channel Tunnel would be used to improve the roads in the south of England. Mr Hughes would ask you to pass the salt.

Matthew Parris

Curbs on loan sharks

Continued from page 1

give trading standards officers much tougher powers to act against brokers and others who appeared to be acting improperly. Some businesses could be forced to suspend trading immediately while their affairs were investigated.

Mr Maude finished this proposal to measures open to regulatory authorities under the Financial Services Act.

He said: "We are trying to make sure that the focus of attention is on those who seek to exploit the consumer."

He said that although up to a half of the 200,000 businesses currently licensed under the Consumer Credit Act would no longer need licences,

any broker with a bad record would have to apply.

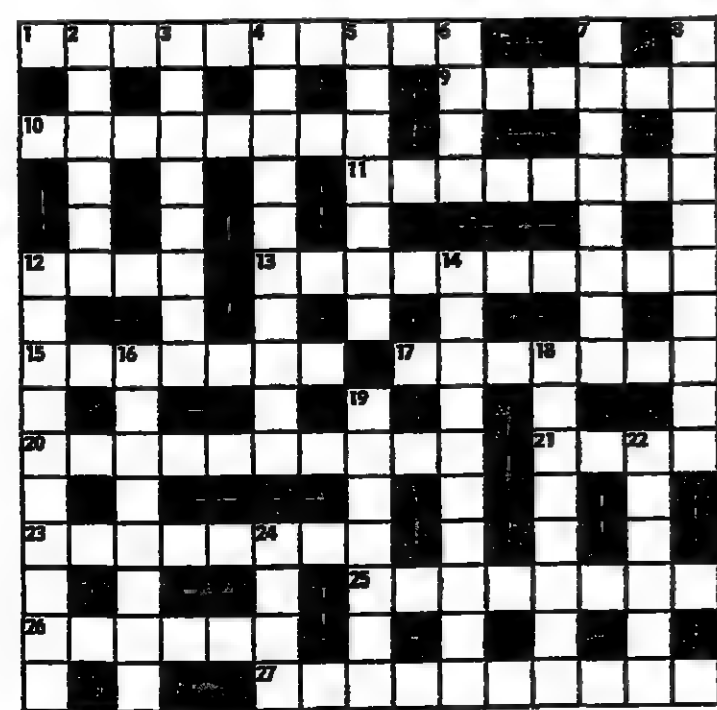
It is also proposed that there be a register of companies which have had their licences refused or revoked.

Those businesses that do require a licence - and this includes lenders - will have to have their licences reviewed every three years.

Sir Gordon Bogle, the Director General of Fair Trading, said that while he accepted that the credit licensing system needed to be tightened, he was concerned about the removal of brokers from the licensing net.

The present system has been in operation since 1976.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,811



- ACROSS**
- 1 Jasper spotted this green gem (10).
 - 9 Fail to justify fellow's confidence (6).
 - 10 The way the Spanish take part in auction for a little fish (8).
 - 11 Quicker way to produce a crop (3,3).
 - 12 It's expensive to express sympathy with me (4).
 - 13 It helps to prevent hard water in the block (10).
 - 15 "And heard a — on a dolphin's back" (M.N. Dream) (7).
 - 17 Choose artist to appear in Greek tragedy (7).
 - 20 Being mentally ill, subjected to analysis (6,4).
 - 21 Mischievous child is bit with sticks (4).
 - 23 Have no hesitation in stealing drink (8).
 - 25 Realise stock — it is coming up for sale (4,4).
 - 26 Meeting where the other side are invited to reply (6).
- DOWN**
- 27 Overripe pheasant, perhaps — it's repulsive to most people (6,4).
 - 2 Association or Rugby game? (6).
 - 3 Do murals to order in Salisbury (3,5).
 - 4 Greeting from a sultan to one in distress (10).
 - 5 One of the problems with a large corporation (7).
 - 6 River bore on the move (4).
 - 7 Rising man takes Indian tea — sounds diplomatic (8).
 - 8 Bad article on German currency is irrelevant (3,3,4).
 - 12 Stand down beside limo after crash (10).
 - 14 Crumpled naval hero into the hold (4,6).
 - 16 Cross supporter's abusive sound broadcast (4-4).
 - 18 Beat music pounding out in the plant (8).
 - 19 Bound to run from a bumper (7).
 - 22 Have a smoke in "Ring round the Moon"? (6).
 - 24 Day that is not ended.

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct? HOLY WRIT

By Philip Howard

- KARUCH**
a. A strict Levite
b. A Median god
c. A prophet's secretary
- JEMIMA**
a. A rich heiress
b. A warrior prophetess
c. The mother of Peter
- MICHAEL**
a. The angel of war
b. The wife of David
c. A minor prophet
- MUZ**
a. An Assyrian king
b. A town in Mesopotamia
c. Abraham's nephew

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,810

FLIGHT PASTIMES
SLOWLY TONGA
HOLY TONGA
WORSHIP MINUTED
I O O A O Y
FLAIR POTSHED
MAJESTIC TIARA
T A A T A A
HUMDRUM IRELAND
E O O U N T I
SANTO MONTI
ELINE T O U L
SLAPDASH STOREY

WEATHER

North and north-west Scotland will be cloudy with some rain, the rest of Scotland will have showers with a little sunshine. Northern Ireland, Wales, south-west Scotland and west England will have sunny spells after early mist but also a few showers. The rest of England will become generally dry with sunny spells. Outlook: some rain in the north, becoming colder and mostly dry. Mild with rain at times in the south.

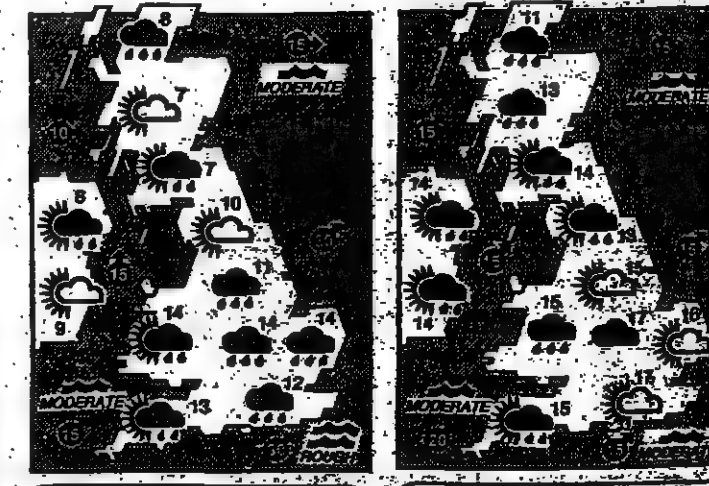
ABROAD

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	22/25	1-2	1-2
Amman	18/25	1-2	1-2
Athens	18/25	1-2	1-2
Bombay	28/32	1-2	1-2
Buenos Aires	18/25	1-2	1-2
Calcutta	28/32	1-2	1-2
Cairo	22/25	1-2	1-2
Colon	28/32	1-2	1-2
Hong Kong	22/25	1-2	1-2
London	12/15	1-2	1-2
Madras	28/32	1-2	1-2
Manila	28/32	1-2	1-2
Medan	28/32	1-2	1-2
Mumbai	28/32	1-2	1-2
Perth	18/25	1-2	1-2
Rangoon	28/32	1-2	1-2
Seoul	18/25	1-2	1-2
Singapore	28/32	1-2	1-2
Taipei	22/25	1-2	1-2
Tokyo	18/25	1-2	1-2
Yokohama	18/25	1-2	1-2

AROUND BRITAIN

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Cardiff	12/15	1-2	1-2
Edinburgh	12/15	1-2	1-2
Glasgow	12/15	1-2	1-2
London	12/15	1-2	1-2
Manchester	12/15	1-2	1-2
Newcastle	12/15	1-2	1-2
Nottingham	12/15	1-2	1-2
Sheffield	12/15	1-2	1-2
Southampton	12/15	1-2	1-2
Stirling	12/15	1-2	1-2
Wolverhampton	12/15	1-2	1-2
Wrexham	12/15	1-2	1-2

AM



LONDON

Temperature: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10-15°C; min 6 pm to 6 am, 10-15°C. Wind: 10-15 mph. Cloud: 10-15%. Rain: 10-15%.

MANCHESTER

Temperature: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10-15°C; min 6 pm to 6 am, 10-15°C. Wind: 10-15 mph. Cloud: 10-15%. Rain: 10-15%.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Temperature: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10-15°C; min 6 pm to 6 am, 10-15°C. Wind: 10-15 mph. Cloud: 10-15%. Rain: 10-15%.

YESTERDAY

Temperature: max 6 am to 6 pm, 10-15°C; min 6 pm to 6 am, 10-15°C. Wind: 10-15 mph. Cloud: 10-15%. Rain: 10-15%.

THE POUND

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12/15	1-2	1-2
Manchester	12/15	1-2	1-2
Newcastle	12/15	1-2	1-2
Nottingham	12/15	1-2	1-2
Sheffield	12/15	1-2	1-2
Southampton	12/15	1-2	1-2
Stirling	12/15	1-2	1-2
Wolverhampton	12/15	1-2	1-2
Wrexham	12/15	1-2	1-2

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1503.2 (+2.3)	US dollar 1.7595 (+0.0055)
FT-SE 100 1850.7 (+2.9)	W. German mark 3.1230 (-0.0140)
USM (Datastream) 161.97 (+0.23)	Trade-weighted 76.0 (-0.2)

THE TIMES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 27 1988

PART 2

25

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30
FIGHT FOR SIGHT 31-33
SPORT 44-48

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Unit trust adviser suspended

Fimbria, the financial intermediaries watchdog, has suspended Acorn Financial Consultants, a life insurance and unit trust adviser, which was empowered to handle clients' money.

The suspension prevents the Surrey firm from conducting or soliciting any investment business and from disposing of any of its assets.

Fimbria, spokeswoman said yesterday, that Rule 17 suspensions, as in this case, are used where Fimbria considers that clients' money may be at risk.

Acorn, which has two partners — Mr Joe Coker and Mr Leroy Drummond — became a member of Fimbria in December last year.

Geers ahead

Geers Grose, the advertising agency, returned to profits in the first six months of the year, earning £147,000 before tax against a £846,000 loss last year. Turnover was down from £40.3 million to £17.6 million. There is still no dividend.

Times, page 26

Bid deadline

Grand Metropolitan has extended the deadline on its bid for Irish Distillers Group until November 15, after claiming the support of 33.06 per cent of IDG shareholders in its bid battle with Pernod Ricard.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2197.32 (-8.04)
Dow Jones	2197.32 (-8.04)
Nikkei Average	27820.00 (+198.11)
Hong Kong	2610.85 (+38.08)
Amsterdam	255.5 (+3.4)
Sydney	1581.5 (-1.5)
Frankfurt	1827.5 (+19.9)
Brussels	3347.9 (+10.5)
Paris	3913.2 (+2.2)
Zurich	487.3 (+1.5)
London	1581.5 (-1.5)
FT-A All-Share	1503.2 (+2.3)
FT-100	1850.7 (+2.9)
FT Gold Mines	67.45 (+0.81)
FT Fixed Interest	67.45 (+0.81)
FT Govt Secs	67.45 (+0.81)

Recent issues

Closing prices

Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RUSSIA	515p (+15p)
Schroders	2485p (+11p)
AB Elect	4625p (+10p)
Logica	2835p (+10p)
US Pathology	2715p (+10p)
A Kershaw	515p (+10p)
FR Group	2255p (+11p)
Carnon	2735p (+10p)
Devises & Newman	635p (+10p)
Unilever	4575p (+8p)
Lorho	3785p (+84p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	12%
3-month interbank	12 1/4-12 1/2%
3-month eligible bills	11 1/4-11 1/2%
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill	7.41-7.50%
30-year bond	10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£: \$1.7595	£: \$1.7600
£: DM1.2300	£: DM1.7427
£: Sfr2.0403	£: Sfr2.0403
£: FF10.6626	£: FF10.6626
£: Yen221.25	£: Yen221.25
£: Index76.0	£: Index76.0
ECU	10.561228

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$407.50 pm \$407.40
close \$406.75-407.25	(2231.75-2232.25)
New York	Comex \$407.20-407.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) 10m \$12.30bbl (\$12.28)

Devilcliff latest trading price

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: ConsGold (02200) up 17p on rumours that Minorco (07014) had sold its stake.

● Racial Telecommunications (03479) traded for the first time with a 7p premium. Also rising were Lorho (01182) and Johnson Matthey (01317) up 11p. The Royal Bank of Scotland (02207) dropped 5p.

● Recent additions include: SWP Group (03477).

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Details, page 28

S&N chairman embarrassed by Elders link

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

Sir David Nickson, chairman of Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, was last night expected to resign his directorship of the Clydesdale Bank, the Scottish arm of the National Australia Bank.

Sir David said he was "considering his position" after being told that NAB was one of the 11 international banks helping to finance Elders' £1.6 billion bid for the Scots brewer.

He is expected to resign his non-executive directorship once he has spoken to Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman of Clydesdale Bank, who, ironically, is in Australia.

Sir David admitted to *The Times* last night that he did not know that National Australia Bank was financing the Elders bid to the tune of £100 million. "You are telling me something I didn't know," he said, "I will consider my position overnight."

This potential conflict of interest is bound to be seen as an even greater embarrassment to S&N than the revelation last weekend that Mr Angus Grossart, S&N's Scottish financial adviser, and Mr Peter Balfour, its former chairman, have seats on the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland, another of Elders' backers. It also further highlights the

often incestuous nature of Scottish finance.

Of the three major banks in Scotland, only the Bank of Scotland appears to have no involvement in the bid, which is sharply dividing national passions and loyalties north of the border. Mr Alick Rankin, chief executive of S&N, is a non-executive director of Bank of Scotland.

Elders, the Foster's lager group, is offering S&N shareholders 400p a share in a move designed to create a worldwide brewing combine worth some £3 billion.

A wounded Royal Bank last night defended its own role in the affair, in a statement which declared that its key principle in customer relationships was equal treatment for all. It "vigorously" rejected recent criticism of its own position as a supporter of the Elders bid as being "based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the bank's relationship with all its customers."

The statement was prepared at a board meeting attended by Mr Grossart, although he "absented himself" as the Elders connection was discussed, having declared a conflict of interest at the outset. As a non-executive director of the bank he had apparently been unaware of the commercial decision to

support the Elders bid until the offer document had been published.

The statement was issued amid more reports of S&N employees in Scotland withdrawing funds from their Royal Bank accounts in protest. There have also been reports that Dundee District Council has threatened to withdraw its account, while the bank's actions are said to have been heavily censured by Lothian Regional Council.

Elsewhere, the Scottish Council for Development and Industry has added its voice to the opposition to the Elders bid, claiming that the merger of S&N and Courage Holdings — proposed in the offer document — would be "against the public interest."

The council's chief executive, Mr Hamish Morrison, has written to Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of the Office of Fair Trading calling for the bid to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. But Mr Morrison said the real defence of S&N lay with the company and its shareholders.

The council's opposition to Elders' bid arises from concern that it would result in S&N concentrating on volume brewing and distribution — greatly changing the business away from its broad base.



Figuring it out: Gerald Wheat, RTG's chief executive yesterday

Flotation success for RTG

By Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent

Heavy American buying guaranteed a successful start to trading in the Racial Telecom Group after its partial flotation by its parent company, Racial Electronics, in New York and London.

The 1 billion shares in the cellular telephone company were offered to the public at 170p, and started at 177p before ending the day at 176 1/2p — a net premium of 6 1/2p.

However, brokers in London appeared disappointed by the response of the investing public and said the opening premium had fallen well short of earlier expectations — which had been pitched as high as 15p. Originally the issue had been oversubscribed and investors had to be scaled down.

Goldman Sachs, the New York-based broker which handled the US side of the

flotation for Racial, is believed to have sold shares for 179p to American investors.

Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of Racial, who watched the start of trading representatives from Hoare Govett's, the company's London broker, seemed happy with the outcome. "Racial Telecom valued at £1.77 billion — I have got to be pleased," he said.

Stock markets page 28

MB ties up packaging interests with Carnaud

By Colin Campbell

MB Group, formerly known as Metal Box, is to merge its packaging interests, valued at £780 million, with those of Carnaud of France to form an Anglo-French company which will occupy third place in packaging groups in the world.

The new company, CMB Packaging, will generate an annual turnover of at least £2 billion in an European packaging market which in 1987 had a total turnover of £35 billion, and have a pro-forma operating profit of approximately £180 million.

Individual MB shareholders are being given a direct 16.53 per cent stake in CMB Packaging, which will have its headquarters in Brussels, 170 factories in 26 countries, and will employ 35,000 people.

The deal means a cash injection of £240 million for MB to be used for further development within MB's core businesses which, in addition to a direct 25.5 per cent stake in CMB Packaging, include beating and bathroom products and security printing interests.

MB shares were suspended at 273 1/2p yesterday ahead of the announcement.

MB has now called off its planned £18 million acquisition of Ferrelbail, France's second largest food can maker, which was announced on October 14.

The merger to form CMB Packaging will be via a scheme of arrangement and will be effective by the end of March 1989. Shareholders approval will be sought in January.

Ownership of CMB Packag-



Wrapped up: Alex Watson (left) of MB, Jean Marie Descarpentrie, chairman of CGIP, and Dr Smith

ing will primarily be held with an equal 25.5 per cent stake by MB Group and Compagnie Generale d'Industrie de Participations (CGIP), Carnaud's effective controlling shareholder.

Both parties have a 10-years shareholders' agreement between them which contains, *inter alia*, pre-emptive rights and a unique requirement that on a change of control of MB or CGIP the other party has the right to acquire the stake in CMB Packaging at an average market price plus a 20 per cent premium.

Other shareholders in CMB Packaging will be MB shareholders individually with 16.5 per cent stake, and other existing Carnaud shareholders with a 32.4 per cent interest. CMB Packaging will seek a London listing.

Dr Brian Smith, the MB chairman, said the merger agreement was the fulfilment of a Pan-European vision held by both companies, and that

both sides only started definitive talks on the merger concept five weeks ago.

"CMB Packaging will be a world class European-based packaging company, able to talk to its major customers with a powerful voice. The merger will unlock potential synergies of both groups. I see exciting prospects for growth which will benefit our shareholders," he added.

Dr Smith denied the Anglo-French packaging merger was a defensive move by MB to thwart Mr John Ellison, the Australian entrepreneur, whose Elders DLI conglomerate was recently unmasked as a holder of 5.1 per cent of MB's shares.

MB's French deal overshadowed yesterday's interim results showing a pre-tax profit of £55.5 million for the six months to end-September compared with £43.2 million, and an interim dividend of 3p raised from 1.9p a share.

Comment, page 27

SIB urges Brussels to adopt its scheme

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Securities and Investments Board is pressing the European Commission to adopt the SIB's own investor compensation scheme for the whole of the EEC as part of the draft directive on investment regulation due to be published in December.

The directive will lay down the regulatory responsibilities of home and host countries, and will include rules on compensation and the treatment of clients' money, as well as the conduct of business in different markets.

The SIB is insisting that there must be a minimum level of compensation established in all EEC countries. Ideally it would like the EEC to adopt the City's newly launched scheme which pays investors in a failed investment company up to £40,000 in compensation.

Some EEC countries, however, would prefer a lower level of compensation. If the European Commission adopts a less substantial scheme, the SIB will insist that firms in London should still be bound by the existing City scheme.

The SIB hopes that by having a high level of compensation, foreign investment firms will be attracted to set up in London because of the reassurance it will give to their clients.

The SIB is also pressing for the draft directive to include different minimum capital requirements for different kinds of investment business.

Unit trusts reach a post-crash high

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

The unit trust industry yesterday produced the best set of monthly figures since the stock market crash on Black Monday last autumn.

Mr Bill Stunzford, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said: "It is a sign that the tide has turned. It is the most encouraging set of figures since last October."

He added that the level of net new investment in unit trusts in September was £385.1 million compared with £34.5 million the previous month.

Sales of unit trusts were £759.1 million, a rise of 60 per cent on August — a figure boosted by insurance companies buying unit trusts for life funds or to back unit-

linked policies. Redemptions remained stable at about £375 million.

The unit trust industry, concerned about competition from EEC groups after October 1989, is lobbying Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to make changes in the Budget which would allow it to compete on even terms with other European groups.

This would entail scrapping corporation tax on the funds, and passing unfranked investment income to unit-holders net of basic rate tax.

In September last year — the month before Black Monday — more than £1.2 billion flooded into unit trusts. But in October 1987 that was down to just £246.7 million.



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MANCHESTER TO LISBON	MON 16:50
HEATHROW TO LISBON	TUE 13:50
HEATHROW TO LISBON	WED 13:50
HEATHROW TO LISBON	THUR 13:50
MANCHESTER TO LISBON	THUR 16:50
HEATHROW TO LISBON	THUR 19:25
HEATHROW TO LISBON	FRI 13:50
HEATHROW TO LISBON	SAT 13:50
HEATHROW TO LISBON	SAT 19:25
HEATHROW TO LISBON	SUN 13:50

ONLY TAP FLY FROM HEATHROW AND MANCHESTER TO LISBON ELEVEN TIMES A WEEK, FOR FLIGHTS TO LISBON, OPORTO, FARO, MADEIRA AND THE AZORES PHONE LONDON 01-828 0262, MANCHESTER 061-499 2161 OR PRESTEL 344 2602.



THE ABOVE TIMETABLE OPERATES FROM 30TH OCTOBER 1988.

High-earning founders reduce their shareholding

LHW seeks a future with Thornton

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Clive Thornton, the former head of the Abbey National Building Society, has acquired control of LHW Futures, the futures broker which attracted a storm of criticism for its high-pressure selling to private clients. He was also invited to become chairman of the firm yesterday.

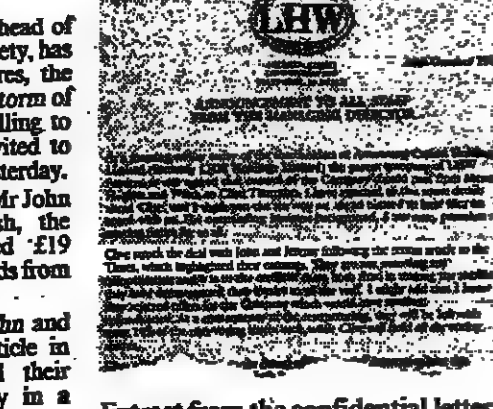
Mr Thornton takes over from Mr John Hughes and Mr Jeremy Walsh, the youthful founders who earned £19 million for themselves in dividends from LHW over a two-year period.

"Clive struck the deal with John and Jeremy following the recent article in *The Times*, which highlighted their earnings", LHW said yesterday in a confidential statement to its staff.

Mr Thornton's assumption of control at LHW is clearly aimed at persuading the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers to accept the firm's application for membership. LHW is seeking association membership, which it requires if it is to survive as an independent firm.

Until now, the AFB — which rejected an application from the firm in 1986 — was known to be unhappy that the two still controlled the firm through their combined 83 per cent shareholding.

"Clive has already been in touch with



Extract from the confidential letter

the AFB, and will this evening be informing them of these major changes" the LHW staff announcement said.

The actual changes involve Mr Hughes and Mr Walsh each reducing their stake to 14 per cent of the company, in the form of non-voting shares. Mr Thornton will be the sole owner of voting shares.

LHW's tactics of charging enormous commissions to private investors, combined with high-pressure selling over the phone, earned the company spectacular

profits. These contributed most of the £37.8 million which the parent company, LHW Holdings, earned in 1986 and 1987. Mr Hughes and Mr Walsh paid themselves £19 million in dividends for these two years.

Informed sources said that Mr Hughes has donated a large amount of his shares to a religious charity. Charity will not benefit from them to the same extent in the future as Mr Hughes has done in the past, since the firm has slashed its commission and sought to improve the quality of its sales advice.

As for Mr Thornton, he is no stranger to difficult situations. He left the Abbey National to join Mirror Group Newspapers as chairman.

His reign was short-lived. He resigned the day Mr Robert Maxwell took over the group. He was also chairman of the magazine *Financial Weekly* for two years until it was sold.

He had an unhappy association with *News on Sunday*, pulling out before the new Sunday newspaper collapsed.

A spokesman for Mr Thornton said control of LHW was being acquired because Mr Thornton "sees a role for a private client futures broker and wants to develop it. He is concerned about people, and LHW does have 70 employees."

Labour accuses DTI of negligence over Clowes

The Opposition yesterday launched a stinging attack on the Government's claim that Sir Godfrey Le Quesne's report into the Barlow Clowes affair had absolved the Department of Trade and Industry from blame.

"The notion that Le Quesne clears the DTI is an insult," said Mr Tony Blair, the Opposition spokesman on City affairs, said.

"A careful reading of the report reveals a catalogue of blunders, missed opportunities and negligence."

Labour also released its own interpretation of Sir Godfrey's report. It is headed "15 wasted warnings, five acts of negligence and three reasons why the DTI cannot wash its hands of Barlow Clowes International" (the Gibraltar arm of the crashed investment group).

"The conduct of the Government can be seen in the stark contrast to the increasingly frantic warnings given to it by virtually everyone concerned with City regulation."

Sir Godfrey's report shows that the DTI received several warnings, some of them very specific, about Barlow Clowes, before it licensed it to deal with the public in October 1985.

The warnings came from

sources such as the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England as well as Nasdim, the intermediaries watchdog, and several individual financial intermediaries.

Last week Lord Young of Graham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, argued that his department's behaviour was reasonable since, following the warnings, it had sought and received assurances about Barlow Clowes from the firm's reputable professional advisers.

However, question marks have been raised about the adequacy of the assurances and the apparent failure of the department to carry out a

thorough evaluation of the products offered by Barlow Clowes.

The warnings from the Bank and the Stock Exchange had called into question these products. The Stock Exchange, for example, expressed "disbelief" about whether Barlow Clowes could pay their advertised return without eroding capital."

Mr Blair, who was meeting Lord Young last night to discuss the Barlow Clowes affair, said: "It is now plain that the only people unaware of the true nature of Barlow Clowes were the DTI, who could not see, and the investors, who were not told."

Warning on profits from ITL

A profits warning from ITL Information Technology, placed on the stock market at 10.5p in June last year, sent the shares down another 10p to 40p.

At this price, the company, which makes specialized micro-computers and data communications systems, is valued at just £12.4 million.

ITL said that despite higher orders in the first half of its financial year to October 16, sales were lower than expected and margins had been under considerable pressure. Results in both halves of the year were, therefore, likely to be below expectations.

A cost-cutting programme, including an 8 per cent reduction in staff levels, is under way.

Figures slide at Reebok

Reebok, the US footwear company 32 per cent owned by Penland Industries, saw pre-tax profits drop from \$92.98 million (\$52.81 million) to \$61.99 million in the third quarter to end-September.

The company said it had expected a drop in earnings in the quarter but was not satisfied with the figures. Sales of Reebok brand footwear rose 34 per cent during the quarter to \$352 million, and total sales from \$408 million to \$539 million.

Bourse move

Foreign companies will be able to buy into the Belgian bourse when the country's own Big Bang comes into force. They will be able to take an initial 25 per cent stake in special companies set up by Belgian stockbrokers and, later, be able to buy 100 per cent in the bourse companies, as well as set up their own from January 1, 1992.

Cash deal

Harland Simon, the Milton Keynes electrical and computer systems design group, is paying \$1.75 million (\$994,000) cash for most of the Electro-Flyte controls systems division of Black Clawson, the US group.

Year change

Baldwin, the diversified group, is changing its financial year-end from April 30 to October 31 and will have a six-month accounting period to end-October this year.

Dealer bought

Western Motor Holdings has bought Berden Garage, a Toyota dealer of Sandhurst, Berkshire, for £1.7 million cash.

Holmes in spotlight after ADT share move

The future of Holmes Protection Group, the security company formerly known as Scusa, which is based in the US although quoted in London, has been cast into doubt by news that Mr Michael Ashcroft's ADT has applied to acquire a stake.

Because it is registered in Delaware, Holmes is subject to US corporate law. Mr Ashcroft has made an application to the US anti-monopoly authorities saying he intends to acquire more than \$15 million (£8.32 million) of Holmes shares.

Speculation in London was that he might have conditionally agreed to buy the 15 per cent of Holmes owned by Wormald, an Australian group, which is known to be for sale, probably subject to clearance from the US authorities. The Wormald stake is valued at \$22.7 million at the current market price.

ADT's substantial security interests in New York and New Jersey, coupled with those of Holmes, would give any combined group a large share of the commercial security market there.

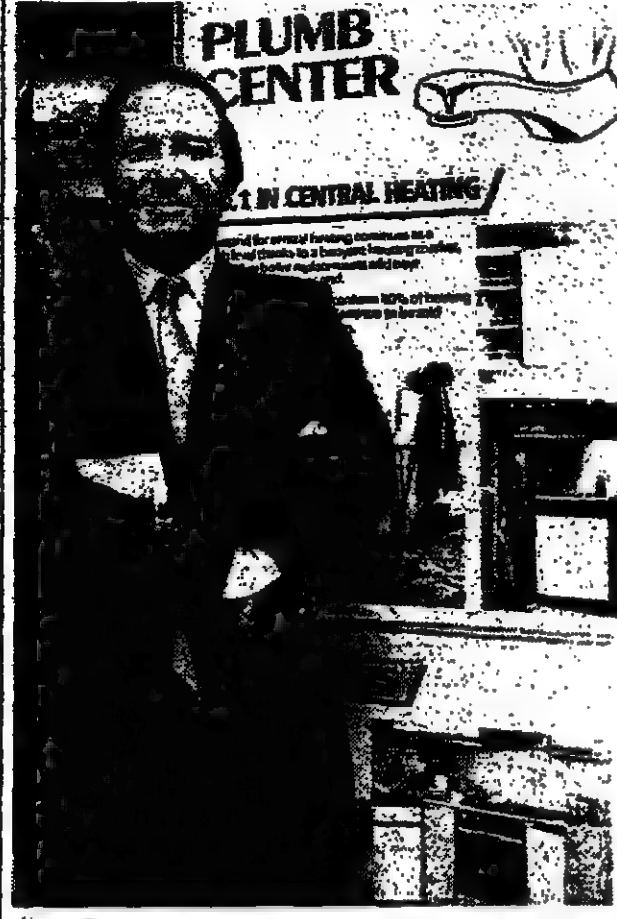
ADT's application, which was worded to comply with the US Hart-Scott-Rodino anti-trust legislation, said depending on market conditions it might acquire additional stock constituting 50 per cent or more of its target.

Holmes shares shot ahead initially to 138p, a gain of 12p, in London before settling back to 130p. At this price the company is worth slightly more than \$150 million.

Market caution was based on the fact that ADT's application is still at an early stage, and that it is blocked from buying any shares for 30 days. In addition, any subsequent takeover battle would be fought under Wall Street rules, which could offer the investor a lower return than provided by the City's Take-over Code.

Neither ADT nor Mr Brian O'Connor and Mr Tom Forrest, the men who run Holmes, was available for comment. But the Holmes board, which took the unusual step of publicizing Mr Ashcroft's application, said it would be seeking clarification from ADT of its intentions.

Record £97m for Wolseley as sales rise 31% to £1.3bn



Optimistic Jeremy Lancaster (Photograph: James Gray)

Wolseley, the world's largest heating and plumbing merchant, reported record profits in the year to end-July, up from £75.2 million to £97.6 million. Sales were 31 per cent higher at £1.3 billion compared to £977 million.

Maiden contributions from newly acquired US businesses added £10.6 million to trading profits. The results were boosted by £1.1 million of profits from property disposals.

Currency movements during the year resulted in a £2 million year-on-year swing in profits.

Earnings per share increased from 24.6p to 31.7p. A final dividend of 6.7p was declared, up from 5p in 1986-87, making a total for the year of 9p, up from 7p.

Mr Jeremy Lancaster, the chairman and managing director, said despite some concern for domestic interest rates and the US budget deficit, he remained optimistic about the group's prospects.

"We are in excellent shape and have a strong balance sheet. Having expanded rapidly the group now looks forward to good organic growth and some strategic cash acquisitions," he said.

Times, page 26

Cannon Street to float subsidiary

Cannon Street Investments, the industrial holding company chaired by Mr Bill Hislop, is to float its Betacom domestic telephone supply subsidiary.

Market estimates say the company should be capitalized at between £25 million and £30 million once it reaches the market - by the end of the year, market conditions allowing.

It is the first flotation for a subsidiary of Cannon Street since its relaunch on the stock market in July 1985.

Further quotes are planned for three or four of the group's subsidiaries over the next year, Mr Hislop said.

Betacom will be floated by means of an offer for sale which will give existing Cannon Street shareholders preferential treatment, although it is hoped a significant proportion of the 70 per cent of the equity on offer will go to new shareholders.

Betacom's profits have expanded from £33,000 pre-tax in the year to end-September 1983 to £2.31 million in the 13 months to end-December 1987. It is likely to come to the market on a price/earnings multiple somewhere in the low teens.

It is involved in the promotional end of the market, producing specially designed telephones for large corporations, and a range of novelty telephones. A new range of low-cost domestic facsimile machines is also being launched shortly.

ICH cuts payout on setback

International City Holdings, the money-broking and financial services group, yesterday surprised the market by cutting its dividend by 1.5p to 7.5p after announcing a 44.2 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £9.6 million for the year to July 31.

The company's shares tumbled 23p to 102p. Earnings per share were down by more than half from 24.8p to 11.2p.

ICH blamed difficult market conditions for the profit decline which was particularly severe in securities broking. Profits on securities broking dropped from £6.6 million in 1987 to a loss of £852,000.

Most of the decline came in MKI.

Times, page 26

Dealer bought

Western Motor Holdings has bought Berden Garage, a Toyota dealer of Sandhurst, Berkshire, for £1.7 million cash.

French box clever to package le colossus

Ugly memories of the disastrous union of Dunlop with Pirelli are stirred by the joint venture plan of MB Group and Carnaud of France. The Dunlop deal ended in acrimony and near-bankruptcy, not because the vision of a string of joint venture motor tyre companies was flawed, but because the two sides could not get on. Dunlop simply could not hold its end up against Pirelli, the union collapsed and one of Britain's oldest and proudest companies was broken up.

Vision is in abundant supply at MB Group, where chairman Mr Brian Smith took time recently to outline to institutions his ideas of where the group would be in 1992. He did not warn them that he was about to merge two-thirds of the group into the French company Carnaud to create a packaging colossus, third in the world and biggest in Europe, but he may not have known. The deal slumped in front of the shareholders yesterday was concocted in about five to six weeks.

For all its rapid progress from the idea stage to formal agreement, the deal looks, at first sight, to be one of the bravest arrangements we have yet seen in the run up to 1992, and may be a model for others to follow. The drive for putting together Metalbox Packaging and Carnaud comes not from the banking parlours of Paris or London, but from the management of two large businesses pooling their strength to take on the world.

Both Carnaud and Metalbox Packaging have been expanding fast in Europe and elsewhere, and each had reached the point where it was increasingly likely to trip over the other in the quest for new markets. The two already have trading links and various agreements on the transfer of technology, and competition between them was not much to their taste.

In Brussels, the Commissioners may have more than a few questions on that particular issue, although the partners are doing their best to present the merger as "complementary" rather than "anti-competitive." It is hard to see where the difference lies.

A merger of the two creates a European company head and shoulders above St Gobain, its nearest competitor. It will command £2 billion of a £35 billion market, which should not give Lord Young too many sleepless nights, and although some customers are bound to question the lessening of competition, others will welcome the greater spread of products, markets and innovation that the combined group will be able to muster.

The whole key to whether or not the merger ends in tears as did the visionary Dunlop/Pirelli union, or ticks away with the sweetness of a Cartier watch depends on the managements of the enlarged Carnaud, to be known as CMB Packaging, of MB Group and of Compagnie Générale d'Industrie et de

Participations, which controls 44 per cent of Carnaud.

The board is being constructed like Bradford City Council - half and half, which is fair but may simply result in stagnation. What is required is that CMB Packaging has its own strong and independent board, which regards the two former owners merely as shareholders and not patrons.

The history of joint ventures on the grand scale is at best mixed, at worst littered with the corpses of good intentions. Even between the two participants in the CMB venture, there is a history of joint companies in three countries being unscrambled because the two sides both thought they were not getting sufficient advantages from them. And MB's plans, announced only two weeks ago, to take a 72 per cent stake in France's largest can maker have been cancelled. No reason is given for abandoning that stalking horse for Europe, even before the ink was dry on the heads of agreement. Perhaps it just got overtaken by events.

But, by and large, the industrial strategy behind the merger appears to have compelling logic.

It is in the financial detail that the deal looks cobbled, and likely to fall apart. The two sides each insisted that they end up with identical shareholdings, even though MB has the more valuable business to inject and Carnaud's major shareholder is sitting on 44 per cent of its capital. For the French side it is all quite straightforward: existing Carnaud shareholders have their stakes diluted by the shares that Carnaud will issue to acquire Metalbox Packaging. The 44 per cent becomes 25.55 per cent.

But the existing MB Group shareholder sees his company dispose of two-thirds of its business in exchange for a minority shareholding in a French company, and a lump of cash for which MB has outline but not definitive plans. MB shareholders also pick up a direct stake in the French company; instead of one investment they will have two, one of them carrying all the complications of foreign domicile.

However it is dressed up, MB is selling the greater part of its business, and its status will be reduced to that of a holding company for its stake in CMB. It will be able to account for its share of the packaging group's earnings but will not, as Sir Michael Edwards would put it, be able to get its hands on the cash. The market value of the CMB shareholding will not be fully reflected in the MB share price.

MB shares are suspended because the Stock Exchange rulebook lacks the flexibility to allow them to be traded. The French are less queasy, and Carnaud shares were allowed to fall FFr26 to FFr490 yesterday.

Fair comment.

Japan's sombre economy

Hundreds of Japanese businesses, from hotels and flower shops to advertising agencies and geisha houses, are suffering from the commercial slow-down caused by the mood of self-restraint that has gripped Japan ever since Emperor Hirohito's health collapsed five weeks ago. The cancellation of parties in Tokyo's expensive account business world has been particularly painful for Japan's famous "hostesses". Geisha houses, which provide the elite human dolls that decorate parties at ritzy Japanese restaurants, are having to tell their girls to spend more evenings in front of the television. The more numerous "companions" - there are 100,000 in Tokyo alone - who wait on businessmen at company parties or at new product launches, have also had time to catch up on their reading. But some economists are now predicting that Japan's solemn lip-biting could even hurt the country's economic growth. Richard Jerram, an economist with merchant bank Kleinwort Benson in Tokyo, calculates that the economic loss could slice a quarter of a percentage point off Japan's economic growth this year. Noboru Takeshita, Japan's prime minister, is also worried. But he set the ball rolling himself when, shortly after the Emperor fell ill, he cancelled a political fund-raising party which was expected to raise between 1 and 2 billion yen (£4.5 million to £9 million).

Galley slaves

Peter Carey is not the only one celebrating his winning Booker Prize. Mackays of Chatham, the printer and binder of his novel, *Oscar and Lucinda*, are now busy reprinting 37,000 more copies to deliver to Faber & Faber, the publisher, on Monday morning. Mackays, which started business life in 1980 and now has a turnover of £12 million, will be working over the weekend to ensure the batch is finished on time and reaches there will be a further order for 30,000 next week.

Some Booker Prize-winners have generated reprints of up to 100,000 copies in the weeks following the award. Jim Daniels, Mackays managing director and one of the major shareholders, said: "We were watching the awards on television and hoping our book would win." In the event "our" book could have been one of three, for Mackays also printed *Utz* by Bruce Chatwin and *The Lost Father* by Marina Warner, also shortlisted, and also likely to be reprinted.

British Telecom is not alone in facing a hostile reaction from customers to its plans to charge for directory inquiries. Nippon Telegraph & Telephone, Japan's national telephone company, has also decided to shelve plans to introduce charges after customers revolted. But there are one or two differences. It is very hard to find a telephone in Japan that does not work, and Japanese operators and directory inquiry services answer within a couple of rings.

Rosemary Unsworth

Cap'n book

After he recently chose his eight records for *Desert Island Discs*, I suppose the next broadcasting accolade for publisher Robert Maxwell will be *This Is Your Life*. I gather preparations are now under way, amid the usual secrecy, for the great man's appearance on the show. But will there be sufficient studio space to accommodate the entire Maxwell clan?

Getting to know you

The best marriages, some say, are those where the partners do not understand each other. The love affair which led to yesterday's nuptials between MB (formerly known as Metal Box) and French companies Carnaud and Compagnie Générale d'Industrie et de Participations should thus go far. Dr Brian Smith, MB's chairman, who was full of enthusiasm about how well the marriage will work at yesterday's public announcement, whispered behind his hand that he does not speak French. M Jean-Marie Descarpentries, President-Directeur-General elect of the new group does, however, speak English. May their union be blessed.

Growth fund

You do not normally associate stockbrokers with the gentle art of gardening. Yet in a new publicity drive, private-client broker Capel-Cure Myers compares itself to that most famous of landscape gardeners, Capability Brown. According to Fred Carr, managing director of CCM's Management Capital: "Our approach to managing private clients can be likened to the approach an experienced gardener takes to create and maintain a beautiful garden." As part of the gardening theme CCM is sponsoring the National Gardens Scheme. Menthinks the private client list would have trebled if they had offered easy access to the Chelsea Flower Show by "helping" the Royal Horticultural Society.

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Dollar decline puts shares into retreat

(Reuters) — Shares remained lower in early trading yesterday, but blue chips were regaining some of their earlier losses. Prices fell along with a sharp decline in the dollar, brokers said. The dollar fell after the report of a smaller-than-expected rise in the third-quarter gross national product.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 6 points to 2,167.36 after declining to 2,157.00. Mr Jerome Hinkle, a senior trader at Sanford C.

Bernstein, said: "The difference between the expected and the actual GNP figure was much weaker trade and military spending figures."

● Frankfurt — Bolstered by strong foreign and domestic demand, as well as the dollar's stability at about DM1.79, shares surged to 1983 highs before slipping slightly on profit-taking. The 30-share DAX index peaked at a 1983 high of 1,312.51, before easing to close at 1,310.63, up 16.91 points, or 1.3 per cent.

**ROTHMANS INTERNATIONAL:
question mark hanging over
Philip Morris stake**

The chart displays two data series over a 12-month period from October to October. The Y-axis represents price/index values from 250 to 500. The X-axis lists the months: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct.

- Share price:** Represented by a solid line. It starts at approximately 480 in October, drops sharply to around 300 by November, then fluctuates with an overall upward trend, ending near 450 in the final October.
- FTA All share price index (Rebased):** Represented by a shaded area. It starts at approximately 300 in October, rises to about 350 by November, and then shows a steady, gradual increase to approximately 380 by the final October.

Source: DataVision

TOKYO
Nikkei up 199 points
as confidence returns

said: "Oil prices are generally weaker, Japanese short-term interest rates are falling and the yen is strong. The market rose on these merits."

The Nikkei index gained 199.11 points, or 0.73, per

● Sydney — The market closed barely steady after a lacklustre day of thin trading. At the close of floor trading, the All-Ordinaries Index had edged up 0.7 points to 1,581.5

row to allow for the statutory cooling-off period following the last announcement of his holding in Lonrho.

The rest of the equity market enjoyed a small technical rally which left leading shares sporting small gains on the day. But business re-

wants the money to bid for Istock Johnsen, whose shares were 1p dearer at 182p.

Consolidated Gold Fields clawed back some of Tuesday's losses following the retraction of Minorco's £2.2 billion bid to the Monopoli and Mergers Commission.

But the shares of the parent company, Racal Electronics, failed to benefit, falling 7p to 298p.

[illegible]

From Mr Leslie Glenville
Sir, In your report (October 15) on the Hammerson Group half year results you refer to "... Mr Sydney Mason who created the Group. . ."

The Hammerson Group was the creation of Lewis W Hammerson, an early visionary in the property world. Lew is still remembered by his old friends with affection and you do less than justice to his memory by crediting the creation of the Group to Sydney Mason who was only one of the many subsequent contributions to the Group speak for themselves.

Yours truly,
LESLIE GLENVILLE,
16b Palmeira Court,
25/28 Palmeira Square
Hove,
East Sussex.
October 17.

From Mr P. C. Mavron
Sir, The verdict of the Le Quesne report was hardly surprising since it was conducted by a lawyer alone and not jointly with an accountant.

It is perhaps significant that without exception all recent DTI investigations into financial scandals have been conducted jointly by a lawyer and an accountant. On this one occasion, when the DTI was the subject of the investigation, the services of an experienced accountant were dispensed with.

Yours faithfully,
P. C. MAVRON,
71 Linden Way,
Southgate,
London, N14.
October 21.

The interim figures next Monday from Trevian Holdings, the USM-quoted property trader, should make pleasant reading. Dealers expect the group to report pre-tax profits of \$1.22 million for the six months to September 30, compared with \$1.03 million for the whole of last year. Trevian finished 2p

by Philip Morris, the US tobacco group which earlier this month launched an \$11.5 billion (£6.5 billion) bid for the Kraft Corporation.

Followers of Rothmans claim that the move by Philip Morris indicates it is moving away from tobacco and into food manufacturing. As a result, it may need to sell its holding in Rothmans to raise much-needed capital. Rembrandt, the South African tobacco producer, owns a further 33 per cent of Rothmans and has been given the first option on the Philip Morris stake should it decide to sell.

[illegible]

From Mr Henry Hiley

Sir. Of course I have sympathy with those who have lost their savings because of the Barlow Clowes collapse

But is not the Government under an even greater obligation to those of us who receive a miserly 3 1/4 per cent interest (arbitrarily reduced from 5 per cent in the 1930s) on War Loan quoted now at less than half its cost to patriotic citizens in real pounds, 60 odd years ago?

Yours sincerely,
HENRY HILEY,
40, St. Vincent Cottage,
St. Vincent Road,
Sutton Coldfield.

20 October 82

Fight for US publisher nears end

RECENT ISSUES	
EQUITIES	
BMSG (110p)	126
Buckingham (110p)	115
Builder Gro (125p)	161
Cactkew Inn	SS +3
Christie Gro (145p)	170 +2
Colonnade	139
Cupid	104
Edinburgh Hibernian	108
European Colour	248
Hentage (95p)	156
Herring Son (150p)	155
Hi-Tech Sports	144
Lincoln Group (115p)	170
Lowes (125p)	213 +2
Marlborough	142
Nat Telecom	149
Pascal Telecom	176 +1
Ralston	84
Riva	125
Saundersen Elec (100p)	145
Savills (125p)	118
SCF Ltd	214 +2

[illegible]

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WARDAIR BUSINESS CLASS IS,
YOU'D NEVER BELIEVE US.**

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a full day's work in the UK and still arrive the same evening in Toronto. ✈ It's little wonder we fly more people between Britain and Canada than any other airline. ✈ Wardair Business Class is simply a class above the rest. And with the added bonus of a free excursion, ticket you couldn't make a shrewder choice. ✈ For further information or reservations contact your local travel agent or call Wardair Canada on 0800 234444.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Smithkline (R)	Pharmaceuticals	
2	Dunlop	Engineering	
3	ICI	Chemicals	
4	Unilever (UK)	Food	
5	AFV Group	Finance	
6	Rankine	Industrial L-R	
7	McAlister	Property	
8	Quintin	Electronics	
9	Stanley	Industrial S-Z	
10	Rothmans	Building Roads	
11	Tilbury Group	Building Roads	
12	Int. Thomson	Newspapers/Pub	
13	Wager Ind	Industrial S-Z	
14	Elton (R)	Industrial E-K	
15	F&I (Roths)	Electronics	
16	Alfa	Electronics	
17	Local Lon	Property	
18	Carlisle	Building Roads	
19	Stanton	Industrial A-D	
20	Anglo S	Building Roads	
21	Kirk S	Food	
22	Bagbridge Ind	Building Roads	
23	Goodall Wines	Breweries	
24	Yorkshire	Textiles	
25	Brunner	Industrial A-D	
26	Robinson (Thames)	Industrial L-R	
27	Free Air Dev	Engineering	
28	Hammam Ind	Industrial E-K	
29	Olive Ridge	Property/Adv	
30	Asia Europe	Industrial A-D	
31	Kid Europe	Child	
32	Easton Ind	Industrial E-K	
33	Imv Merch	Property	
34	Keep Trust	Industrial E-K	
35	Goring Kerr	Industrial E-K	
36	BAT (UK)	Tobacco	
37	Unigate (UK)	Food	
38	Reed Int (UK)	Newspapers/Pub	
39	House Of Lords	Drugs/Pharm	
40	Loxley	Property/Adv	
41	Maudslayi (J)	Building Roads	
42	Quintin Group	Finance	
43	Coventry Ind	Industrial A-D	
44	French Hill	Industrial	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)					
1	100	100	100	100	100
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS					
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FIGHT FOR SIGHT

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

The Queen officially opened the rebuilt Moorfields Eye Hospital yesterday. Pat Blair reports on its work

Doorway to the seeing world

When the Queen performed the official opening yesterday of the new £15 million building and renovations to the world-renowned Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, it was a member of the cleaning staff who had the honour of presenting her with a bouquet.

That gesture was a mark of recognition and gratitude by the management to those who had helped keep the hospital clean, usable and open over the past six and a half years while it was gutted and rebuilt inside its 1899 shell. Francis Cumberlege, chairman of the board of governors, is proud of the fact that staff at all levels worked through the disruption to keep the service going.

Thought to have the largest outpatients' department in the country, Moorfields, with an annual Department of Health budget of £15 million, saw 164,992 such patients last year. Its accident and emergency department also dealt with more than 78,000 people and more than 11,000 were admitted for treatment.

The hospital's close links with the Institute of Ophthalmology, both in physical proximity and clinical and research co-operation, make the two organizations seem almost inseparable. Many, if not most, of the hospital's medical, nursing and technical staff are closely involved in research projects initiated in both hospital and institute.

Developments since 1805 when the hospital was set up as the London Dispensary for Curing Diseases of the Eye and Ear—and more especially within the past few years—have changed the face of ophthalmic medicine. Peter Fells, the consultant surgeon who is chairman of the hospital's medical committee,

points out that the average length of stay for in-patients is now just over three days. "When I came here 20 years ago, it was 12 days."

Transplant surgery has come into being; Moorfields carries out about a third of approximately 500 corneal transplants in Britain every year. It runs an eye bank, under Mr Arthur Steele, although there are never enough donors to perform all the transplants needed. "People should talk about this," Mr Steele, a consultant ophthalmologist, says. "They should let their relatives and executors know they would like to donate their eyes."

Laser operations, cryosurgery (freezing techniques), controlled paralysis (injecting the botulinus toxin into tiny eye muscles to correct dis-

Like most inner-London hospitals, Moorfields has difficulties in attracting staff in all disciplines, including nurses where a fifth of the 276 posts are usually unfilled, especially among theatre nurses. It is nevertheless regarded by staff as a special place. "Everyone has a great deal of commitment to the hospital—from porters and domestic staff to the consultants," Miss Emblin says.

Moorfields' dispensary is familiar to most patients. The pharmacy department hands out almost three quarters of a million items to more than 75,000 patients a year, a number that is expected to top 100,000 with the merger of the Holborn and City Road sites.

Its pharmacists handle worldwide drug-inquiries and use the products from what is the world's largest hospital ophthalmic manufacturing unit. There, more than a million items a year—eye drops, lotions, ointments and injectable preparations—are manufactured, 90 per cent destined to be used at Moorfields. The rest are either sold to health authorities or overseas.

Another department that has grown in recent years is the visual assessment department, which 30 years ago simply provided one or two refractionists and a small dispensing service. It is now staffed by five full-time optometrists and dispensing opticians and research staff.

Janet Silver, the optometrist in charge, has taken to international recognition the low-vision clinic the department runs. It serves those people who are visually handicapped—and develops and evaluates devices and techniques to aid the visually impaired. With the growing number of elderly people, that service is also likely to expand.



Under assessment: Janet Silver, the head optometrist at Moorfields, testing a patient's sight

Most blindness is avoidable

Ten years ago, it was estimated that there were 28 million blind people in the world; now the estimate is 40 million, and rising. Yet four fifths of that blindness is avoidable and could be cured or prevented, *Pat Blair writes.*

Worldwide, the main blinding diseases are cataract, tropical ulcer (as a result of malnutrition), trachoma and river blindness. The first three are curable, given the means. Surgeons can deal with cataracts; the correct food will combat nutritional blindness and fresh running water will counteract trachoma.

With the aim of tackling blindness at a community level, and with the initiative of Professor Barrie Jones, the Institute of Ophthalmology set up a department of preventive ophthalmology in 1980. It is now the International Centre for Eye Health. One of its main

activities has been a six-month course in community eye health each year, training workers from the Third World to promote eye health and fight blindness at home.

Most teaching is by the department's staff, but lecturers are invited from other departments, Moorfields hospital, and other centres in Britain and Europe.

Staff and research associates also go overseas to help in collaborative studies. These have involved such disparate regions and conditions as studying the risk factors for cataract in India, looking at child blindness in Africa, and surveying blindness and eye disease in The Gambia.

Until about five years ago, there was no clue to the clinical management of river blindness. Vector control, while effective, was too expensive. Recent studies have shown that a drug, Ivermectin,

may be able to control the disease; one tablet a year may be the answer, although that has to be proved. Staff from the institute and the hospital have been active in the drug trials in Togo and Sudan.

Crossing the world, Moorfields is involved in research into sickle cell disease, an inherited disorder mainly found among black people. For about seven years, a team has gone out to Jamaica to survey children with and without the disease, following the evaluation of the disorder in the hope of discovering why some go blind. Such a study may never be done again, because of the expense.

The links between Moorfields' pharmacists and the institute have also opened the way for products and expertise to reach charities and countries who would otherwise be unable to treat patients

Computer that helps track a family trait

Genetic research has in recent years increasingly attracted the attention of scientists in many branches of medicine, of which ophthalmology is one, *Pat Blair writes.*

In this respect, Moorfields has an invaluable resource. It now holds computer details of about 3,000 families, in an effort to trace the extent of some genetically determined eye diseases. Although half the registered families actually have only one member with such a disease, about 20,000 people in the UK have an inherited eye disorder.

Many suffer from retinitis pigmentosa, a term covering up to 200 disorders, which is characterized by the eye's failure to adapt to dark conditions. There is a progressive loss of vision which can lead to blindness in some people.

On the computer register, all known relatives of the families, which can range up to 120 members, are documented. Moorfields was able to build up such a data base as a result of having such a large "pool" of patients.

Researchers from the hospital and other centres are using the information to try to identify the cells responsible for causing the condition, as a step towards trying to prevent it or seek a cure.

Thus, if a patient attending the hospital or another research centre is found to have a particular form of the disease, and if it is felt more research would be helpful, Moorfields can write to families in which the condition occurs and seek their help.

From the huge family pedigrees it has also been possible to show, in one particular disease, that the number of cases world-wide stem from four or five families of British origin. That disease can now be found in two families in South Africa, one in Australia, two in Canada and one in the United States, all connected to the Moorfields' data.

Similarly, the gene for another form of retinitis pigmentosa was first identi-

fied by scientists in Edinburgh, using Moorfields' family data base to trace about 30 families, more than three-quarters of the world total, in which the condition occurred.

In yet another piece of research, three families—in Cumbria, Grimsby and north London—have been surveyed by a Moorfields team taking with them photographic and colour-vision testing equipment. The team has taken blood samples from every family member. In one case, each member seen has agreed to donate their eyes at death, so that further answers can be sought by the researchers.

While keeping individual patient's details confidential,

● It has been possible to show, in one disease, that the cases world-wide stem from families of British origin ●

Moorfields regards the information it holds not just as its own or a national resource, but an international one, available to any researcher in the world.

Once the gene responsible for a blinding disease can be identified, it can also mean that, although the disorder may not yet be curable, if a family wishes to use Moorfields' genetic counselling service, it can be offered a fair chance of preventing further affected members being born to that family. A woman may opt for a termination, for example, if the genetic test in the tenth or twelfth week of pregnancy shows that the baby is likely to develop the disease.

Like much of Moorfields' work, this is a service that, three years ago, was not available but that is now being sought by more families with inherited eye disorders. It is yet another area where the medical advances are fast creating new demands.

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Aiming to keep eyes twinkling

It is easy to take the eyes for granted. Those who enjoy good vision hardly ever give them a thought. Even people who wear glasses often treat them badly, allowing them to get dirty, scratched, or otherwise damaged, thus possibly compromising visual function and storing up problems for the future. Contact lens wearers can be remarkably cavalier about maintaining the condition of their lenses and the health of their eyes.

Everyone should attend regularly for eye examinations; how often depends on the individual. Their importance is plain — one need only consider the number of drivers there are on the roads. There is evidence that many motorists have uncorrected visual defects.

Since the introduction of the Health and Medicines Bill last year, there has been growing concern about its provision for sight-test charges, which has been voted down by the House of Lords but could be reintroduced when the Bill returns to the Commons.

Ministers claim that charges would not significantly deter people from having regular

checks. Critics of the proposal, on both sides of the Commons, find that hard to accept.

Whatever the legislative outcome, it remains true that standards of eye care in Britain are among the highest in the world. However, even with free eye tests, many people remain unaware how valuable examinations can be in preventing the worst effects of eye problems.

Since 1986, there have been many changes in arrangements for ophthalmic care. It has not been made easy for the public to identify the most reputable practitioners and dispensers of glasses.

Optometrists, or ophthalmic opticians, are trained in eye examination and qualified to recognise and refer to specialist treatment anyone suspected of ocular or systemic disease in the eye. Nearly 500,000 people a year — one in 20 of those tested — are referred for further medical attention.

Optometrists, registered with the General Optical Council which exists to maintain high standards, are qualified to dispense glasses and, in some cases, contact lenses.

Ophthalmic medical prac-

Everyone should have their eyes tested regularly, says David Loshak, who explains who and exactly what is involved

tioners are doctors with a recognized ophthalmic qualification to give sight tests and prescribe corrective spectacles or contact lenses.

Dispensing opticians are trained in interpreting prescriptions and providing glasses to meet the prescription. They cannot give eye tests.

An eye examination begins from the moment you walk into the practitioner's room. The skilled optometrist can learn a lot from the way you move and hold your head.

It is important to provide the fullest information. You may be coming in because of eye injury, poor vision or "eye-strain" headaches, but your general state of health is rele-

vant, including medicines taken, family history, work and leisure activities and whether or not you drive.

The eyes will be checked internally and externally, using an ophthalmoscope. That check can not only detect eye disease, but disease elsewhere in the body — raised blood pressure, for instance.

Small changes at the back of the eye can indicate the beginning of diabetes, which can have severe effects on vision; caught early enough, its worst effects can be reduced. Glaucoma, in which there is a slow build-up of pressure inside the eyeball which eventually destroys the visual nerve fibres, can also be controlled if detected early.

The eye test establishes the standards of sight. It includes "refraction", which indicates whether the eyes are focusing normally, as well as a check of the muscles which control eye movement and enable them to work as a pair. If a defect is found in the muscles, optometrists can prescribe exercises, called orthoptics, or other simple methods of treatment.

The usual next step is to ascertain whether different

lenses are needed for near vision tasks, such as reading or writing. Colour vision may also be checked.

That can be especially important for young people contemplating careers in which good colour vision is essential — about 8 per cent of men (though only 1 per cent of women) are colour deficient.

For contact lenses, aftercare is essential for long-term success. Regular checks are even more important, as the lens is actually in the eye.

Optometrists will also advise on the supply of low vision aids, as well as special safety lenses, frames and goggles for industry, office and domestic lighting. There are all kinds of special glasses, too, such as bifocals, trifocals, reading glasses, optical sunglasses and even glasses which do not reflect strong light (for television personalities).

Free leaflets on eye care can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed A5 envelope to the Eye Care Information Bureau, 4 Ching Court, Shelton Street, London WC2H 9DG.



Julian Stevens, Tony Evans and Kim Hakin, ophthalmic registrars, viewing the records

Researchers with a target

The fact that hardly anyone can go through life without needing glasses, if only to read comfortably in old age, is an indication of the essential fragility of one of nature's greatest benefactions, the gift of sight, writes David Loshak.

The Institute of Ophthalmology, which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary, was established to spearhead research into the causes and cure of blinding diseases.

However, big challenges remain. Research is more vitally needed than ever. That is placing increasing demands upon the Institute. It has therefore embarked on a £9.8 million project to develop

a site adjoining Moorfields which will form the finest ophthalmological complex in Europe.

But good buildings and modern facilities are of little use without skilled staff, says Sir Richard Meyjes, chairman of the Special Appeal Campaign.

"It is therefore in people that the Institute needs to make its greatest investment. New endowments are required both to provide salaries for young scientists and doctors, and to finance their research," he says.

Through its special appeal, the charity Fight for Sight is offering members of the pub-

lic, companies and charitable groups the opportunity to support the development of an institute which represents British academic life at its most outward-looking, relevant and enthusiastic.



Sir Richard Meyjes, chairman of the appeal campaign

Institute that belongs to mankind

The Institute of Ophthalmology is fortunate in being on the threshold of developments of benefit to mankind. When it is considered that the Institute is concerned with the understanding of vision, the treatment of eye diseases and the prevention of blindness, those words are not too strong. The preservation of sight to the end of life is a noble aim, both practical and academic.

The functions of the institute are to provide teaching, research and services. These functions are divided among four departments: visual science, concerned with the fundamental nature of vision; pathology, concerned with the study of diseases of the eye; clinical ophthalmology, concerned with the application of science and scientific method to the treatment of eye diseases; and preventive ophthalmology, concerned with the prevention of blindness and,

especially, of treatable blindness in the Third World.

The institute helps to train a significant proportion of consultant ophthalmologists in this country. In addition, it is involved in the training of orthoptists, opticians, nurses, doctors, scientists and, not least, occasionally groups of patients.

The course in community eye health, which is supported by the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness, and the World Health Organization among others, is designed to train medical workers in the most efficient delivery of eye care throughout the world. It is hoped to expand teaching activities if sufficient funds are obtained through the special appeal by the Fight for Sight charity.

The institute has made

Rolf Blach, Dean of the Institute of Ophthalmology, explains what it does, and its hopes for the future

Africa, the Institute has a large team testing a new treatment for onchocerciasis, or river blindness, a disease responsible for blindness in one million people.

The institute provides technological, diagnostic and therapeutic services to the hospital and to other bodies here and abroad. The combination of scientific expertise and vast clinical experience provides an ideal environment for the development of tools, such as ophthalmic lasers and multifocal contact lenses, and the assessment of new drugs.

The institute's plans are ambitious. The University Grants Committee (UGC) has already provided money to move the institute on to one site next to the hospital. In addition it is hoped to build a new hospital-institute interface where scientists and doctors can work together for the

benefit of patients, to expand existing facilities and laboratories, and to build a new library and a larger lecture theatre.

Another new concept is an Ophthalmic Technology Research Centre, financed by industry and business, where the development of new instruments and devices will be encouraged for the benefit not only of scientists and doctors but also for those British firms participating in this endeavour.

Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Institute of Ophthalmology belong to British ophthalmology. All ophthalmologists and visual scientists should feel at home in the institute which represents British academic life at its most outward-looking, most relevant and most enthusiastic.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

October 27, 1988

The still birth of the Training Commission's plans has thrown into sharper focus the shortcomings of Britain's training methods. The most serious outcome is a lack of people with the right skills to fill a growing number of job vacancies — in some part because of the severe cutbacks in apprenticeships and general training implemented during the recent recession.

Britain is the laggard of Europe in skills training. West Germany, France and Scandinavia have always put emphasis on ensuring a well-trained labour force ready for the future. In Britain the tendency has been to limit training and even shelve it during the trading downturns.

Few can blame managements for reacting with caution when faced with the seemingly insuperable operational problems of severe recession. But skills shortages always follow when an upturn comes. Even more worrying is that a dearth of retraining programmes offers little hope to the long-term unemployed who, with the rapid change in technology, may ultimately become unemployable.

What is to be done? Now that the Government's plans for the Training Commission are no more, industrial self-reliance must come to the fore.

But how can industries achieve the most cost-effective training methods? One answer is to tap modern training technology, which has gathered apace in recent



David Stevenson stresses the need for technology-based training

The workface gap Britain must fill

years. Many companies, industrial as well as commercial, have discovered that technology-based training (TBT) has presented them with the opportunity to train and retrain people at a fraction of the cost of conventional methods.

TBT uses microcomputers and interactive video as it takes students of all ages step-by-step to learning a new technique or skill. They cannot proceed to the next learning phase until they thoroughly understand a technical point, routine or principle. The great advantage of TBT is that it can be applied in any operational sphere and to any subject.

Among the growing number of TBT users are some of the best-known names in commerce and industry. Coca-Cola-Schwepes has instituted TBT to cross-skill production-line fitters in diagnostic procedures for maximum efficiency.

British Rail has applied it to establish UK-wide operating and

safety training standards for its crane operators.

BR's main training problem was that its crane operators and supervisors had individual paces of learning, knowledge and experience. The TBT programme was able to overcome these inhibiting factors.

During the course, realistic computer graphics showed crane operators how to avoid overloading or over-stressing their cranes, how to work them in tandem and to follow correct legal and safety procedures.

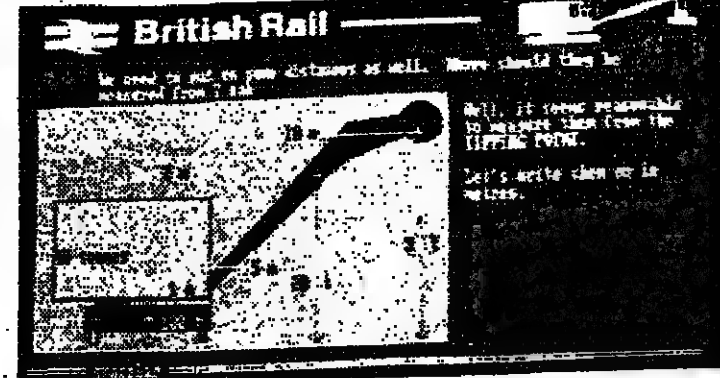
TBT has even penetrated the world of finance, where Guardian Royal Exchange Personal Financial Management has used it to train staff in the Financial Services Act. Such is the efficiency of TBT, Guardian PFM calculates that in comparison to conventional training costs, it will save the company more than £1 million over the next five years.

Top-quality customer service is

viewed by industry leaders as one way to gain a marketing edge over competitors. Banks, building societies, insurance companies, the chemicals and computer industries are quickly joining the lengthening number of businesses following this training trend. With a chronic shortage of specialized skills in several sectors of manufacturing, industry and commerce, particularly engineering, maximizing the benefits of TBT is a way of speeding the training process in a cost-effective way.

Is Britain destined to lose still more export and marketing opportunities to overseas competitors through a lack of trained staff for productive capacity? If management is slow to seize the chance to train its workforce for the tasks of tomorrow, it is an outcome we shall deserve.

The author is marketing director, Mentor Interactive Training, Bradford



Screen safety: How British Rail trains its crane drivers on computer



Students at Bradford's Women's Technology centre being taught the creation of computer-based training

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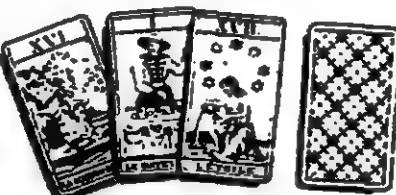
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This is a challenging opportunity in the Business Services market. Our client is looking for an outgoing individual with excellent communication skills and a strong accounts background, to manage a small team responsible for all aspects of their accounting function. The role will encompass responsibility for Sales Ledger, Budget Ledger and Payroll, as well as statistical analysis, budgets and financial forecasting. If you have a basic knowledge of computerised accounting systems, and want to develop your general management and Personnel experience call Jo Nicholas and convince her why you're right for the role.

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We are a group of specialist career consultants who, for the past thirty years, have been helping Executives and professional people earning £15,000 plus find their true potential and realise their future objectives.

We've helped many change their lives and we know we can do the same for you.

To arrange an early confidential appointment, without obligation, telephone our premier recruitment offices, (24 hour answer phone in London).

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BIRMINGHAM 091-501 0272

CHUSID LANDER
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THE MASONIC TRUST FOR GIRLS AND BOYS invites applications for the post of Assistant Secretary to the Rickmansworth Masonic School Ltd.

The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys is a registered charity responsible for the care of some 1,000 young persons at educational establishments throughout the country. In addition the Rickmansworth Masonic School, a private educational establishment for boarding and day girls is administered and controlled from the offices of the Trust.

Applicants, preferably aged between 40 and 50 years, should have appropriate qualifications and experience in administration, an interest in the education of young people, and the enthusiasm to make a positive contribution to the management of this important private school.

Those interested in being considered for the post are invited to write to:

The Secretary,
The Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys,
31 Great Queen Street,
LONDON WC2B 5AG

for an application form and further details.
The closing date for completed applications is Monday, 28th November 1988.

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Aged 28-40 and a Chartered Secretary, you will probably have 5 years' post qualification experience within substantial companies. You will be highly self-motivated and attracted by the breadth of involvement which this progressive organisation offers. The ability to communicate easily and to gain the confidence of other senior managers will be essential.

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MSL Chartered Secretary,
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MSL Chartered Secretary

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A direct line to the executive shortlist

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Our success in these commercial fields has led us to the expansion of our Commercial Projects Division. To sustain this growth we are seeking an experienced Proposals Manager. In this exciting role, which reports to the General Manager of the Commercial Projects Department, you will head a busy team to prepare tenders for the provision of high tech equipment and services to customers in the nuclear industry within the UK and abroad. This will include:

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- To fulfil this challenging role, the successful candidate will be a graduate in a scientific/technical discipline and probably possess a formal business qualification. A proven track record in contract negotiation in the financial and legal aspects of preparing proposals for major organisations such as the MOD or CEBG is essential. We offer an excellent salary package, excellent Company pension scheme and relocation assistance where appropriate.

For further details of this demanding opportunity please contact Mrs Carole Tinsley, Senior Marketing Officer on (0323) 661461, extension 4232, or send full career details to her at:

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PO Box 31, Derby DE2 8BJ



THE INSTITUTION OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of Professional Development Officer based in the Institution's Westminster Office.

The post will provide a challenging role for a graduate administrator to form part of a small team committed to the promotion of Chemical Engineering as an academic discipline and a rewarding professional career.

The successful applicant will have well developed communication skills, and will be expected to make an effective contribution to Committee work and promotional and liaison activities with schools and other institutions, etc. The post will require some Committee work and liaison with schools and other institutions which will also involve some travel within the United Kingdom.

Salary will be negotiable, around £11,500 per annum, with additional employment benefits.

Applications in writing, with full curriculum vitae to: Mr D B Firth, Deputy Secretary, The Institution of Chemical Engineers, 12 Grafton Street, Westminster SW1P 3HP.



JAPAN

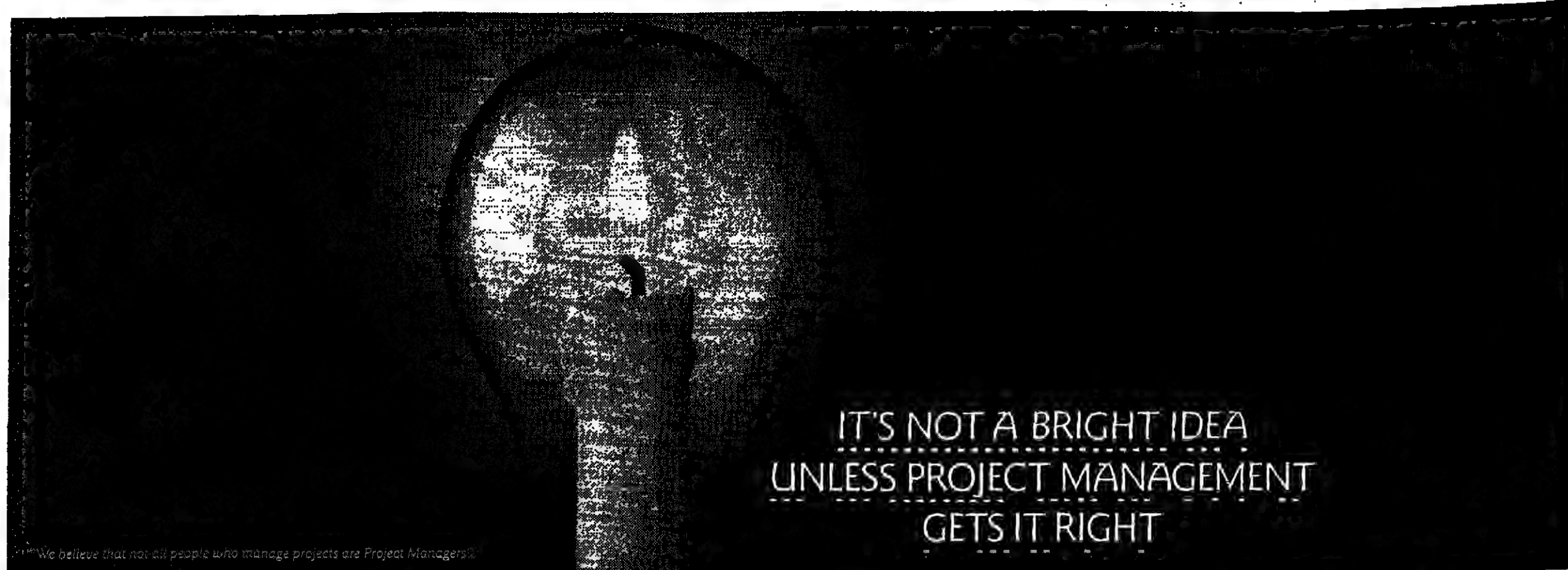
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To do this in a consultancy environment requires an individual with the ability to step back and see how project management in its broadest sense fits in with the client company's culture and infrastructure, which is a far from simple task.

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To have acquired this kind of insight you'll need to have had experience at a senior level in both project and line management environ-

ments. You may have already played in the successful project management existing company.

By insisting on this we've put together a established a name providing clients a comprehensive Management con-

Whether we're addressing project organisational issues, developing appropriate project management methods, specifying and implementing project control systems, providing project management training or actually managing projects, we're unrivalled in our field.

for example, a key role introduction of methods into your

calibre of individual team which has for excellence in across Europe with range of Project consultancy services.

So it's not surprising that demand for our services has grown rapidly, allowing us to add to our consultancy group.

To join us you will need an in-depth understanding of the principles and techniques of modern project management coupled with an ability to communicate your ideas effectively at all levels.

You're likely to be in your early thirties and will possess a degree or professional qualifications.

In return there is an excellent salary and benefits package.

If you believe you are one of the very few who are likely to match our standards, please write with full career details to:

Lesley Bradley, Coopers & Lybrand Associates Limited, Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT quoting ref. 20/10 Or call her on 01-822 8279.



Coopers
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Client Services Manager

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The Client Services Manager is responsible for all non-technical aspects of the company's services to its client organisations. These include reconciliation of queries, transfer of funds, and the efficient control of goods and services supplied by external contractors. The picture is one of a wide-ranging administrative role at the centre of the company's operations, where professional standards are critical.

A record of successful progression in a service-oriented environment is sought - possibly in the financial services sector. Administration skills, numeracy, unflappability, a logical mind, and familiarity with computer-based systems are all vital, along with the management experience to control a growing team of dedicated specialists.

Basic salary will be supplemented by a performance-related bonus and generous pension package, plus the opportunity for career growth as the organisation expands its field of operations.

Please send a comprehensive CV and salary details to Alan Birch, quoting ref. MD1775 at Macmillan Davies Consultants, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Hertford SG14 1PU. Telephone (0992) 552552.

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c. £20,000 + bonus
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You will be joining a successful organisation, providing insurance-related data processing. We are geared up for expansion, and your objective will be to build on a client list that is already substantial.

In your late twenties to early thirties you will have knowledge of the General Insurance business based on at least 5 years' experience in the London market, either broking or underwriting. You'll be entrepreneurial and have a clear eye for profit, bringing an informed market dimension to our client relationships along with management skills.

Existing knowledge of IT is not essential, but you will want, and be encouraged, to acquire that knowledge.

The work is as exciting as it is challenging, and gives you a chance to take your career in a new and very positive direction.

Apart from the excellent salary you will be entitled to generous financial sector benefits, and where applicable, a relocation package. The benefits include a non-contributory pension, free private medical cover, life assurance, a profit-related bonus, and a company car.

If the time has come to make a positive change ring Clive Spenswick now on 01-408 1670. Alternatively write with full career details to the address below quoting reference JG0005.

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Telephone: 01-408 1670

YOU INTERVIEW US BEFORE WE INTERVIEW YOU
FOR A CAREER IN FINANCIAL CONSULTANCY

NM SCHRODER FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT one of the leading Life Assurance, Pension and Investment Product Companies in the United Kingdom have vacancies for people to train for a career as FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS.

We are holding CAREER PREVIEWS on
Monday 14th November at
the Charing Cross Hotel
The Strand, London

Also on Tuesday 15th November at our

NORTH LONDON - BRIGHTON - MAIDSTONE Branches

The purpose of the previews is to explain graphically and in some detail what is involved in taking up a career as a FINANCIAL CONSULTANT with the Company.

They are not interviews but illustrated presentations to provide you information on:

- * THE COMPANY * THE PRODUCTS
- * THE JOB * THE TRAINING
- * THE REWARDS

A Career Preview lasts about 1 1/2 hours and includes a buffet with wine. There are two sessions on the Preview day. You may attend either the lunch time session (12.45 p.m. - 2.15 p.m.) or the evening session (6.45 p.m. - 8.15 p.m.) without any commitment.

If you are aged between 25-55, of good general education, enjoy meeting people and can handle the challenges and hard work of a well paid self-employed job, telephone the numbers listed below to arrange your formal invitation to a CAREER PREVIEW, or to obtain more information.

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01-882-8585

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Maidstone
(0622)-687331

DENNIS DUKE
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CITY

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(CRICKET)

Applications are invited for the appointment of Assistant Secretary (Cricket) on the M.C.C. Executive Staff at Lord's. The main requirements for any applicant are that he should have played First Class cricket, be a good administrator and possess leadership qualities.

The Assistant Secretary (Cricket), together with two other principle Officers, will be responsible to the Secretary M.C.C. for the day to day administration of cricket at Lord's, the training and development of young cricketers, the organisation of cricket candidates and out-matches, the Laws of Cricket and cricket publications. In addition he will supervise the Indoor School and the Real Tennis and Squash facilities at Lord's.

The salary scale will be commensurate with age and experience and will reflect the importance of this appointment. In addition a car will be provided plus an attractive contributory pension scheme and medical insurance.

Applicants in the 40-50 years age bracket should apply in writing enclosing a full curriculum vitae before 14 November 1988 to: Secretary, Marylebone Cricket Club, Lord's Ground, London, NW8 8QN. The envelope should be clearly marked 'Personal and Confidential'.

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* Opportunities in all areas of Engineering. * SRL guide to technical employment - 100 pages of in-depth market appraisal with latest trends and salary levels. * Career progression and guidance - explains our unique approach to career guidance. * Career advice from our Consultants, all of whom are graduate level Engineers.

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- * a thorough knowledge of one of the following official languages of the Communities: Danish, English, Greek, Portuguese or Spanish and a satisfactory knowledge of another language, which may be either Dutch, English or French;
- * date of birth after 31 December 1952;
- * at the date of publication of this notification, at least three years' after-school professional experience related to the kind of duties described above.

To obtain the text of the notification together with detailed conditions and the compulsory application form, write, preferably on a postcard, no later than 25 November 1988, to:
Recruitment Service, General Secretariat of the Council, Competition C/315, rue de la Loi 170, B-1048 BRUSSELS (Belgium).

NB: the deadline for submitting official applications is
7 December 1988.

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£18,000
Proven track record in Administration and Supervision. Degree or equivalent, aged 25-35.
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You are a people person, self-disciplined, articulate and of good appearance. You are seeking the opportunity to lead a fast time business that would provide a very good income. If you are 21-45 years, reside in or near Greater London and wish to learn more, please John Steel on 01 486 9070.

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The successful candidates will come from a Systems or Software Sales background and must possess the drive, initiative and sound commercial skills to negotiate at senior level. You will be required to develop new business and maximise opportunities with an existing client base.

The sales rewards are high and, depending on your experience, packages are available from £35K to £70K with no ceiling on earnings. This will include high basic salary and guarantee together with a choice of quality car. All the other benefits associated with such a prestigious company are also included. In conjunction with the rewards package, a personal development programme will be identified for you to ensure that your own skills are utilised effectively.

To enable you to meet the demanding objectives full product training is given and each sales team has dedicated sales support engineers allowing you to concentrate on what you do best - selling.

If you would like to know more about these exciting sales opportunities and also support positions please telephone 01-868 8466 today between 4.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. Alternatively RII management will be available at The Royal Lancaster Hotel, Pocklington, on Thursday 27th October between 6.30 - 9.30 p.m. to discuss these positions with you or send full details to Mark Wells, Sales Director, c/o Mercuri Urval Limited, 44 Portland Square, Bristol, Tel: 0272-420941.

Mercuri Urval

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you manage,



the faster
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Our Science Management Training Scheme is one of the best available. So if you count yourself among the best, you might be one of only 19 placements we make in 1989.

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a good honours degree in a scientific, engineering, mathematical or computing discipline. To this should be linked a wide-ranging interest in science and technology; good personal skills and, above all, versatility and enthusiasm.

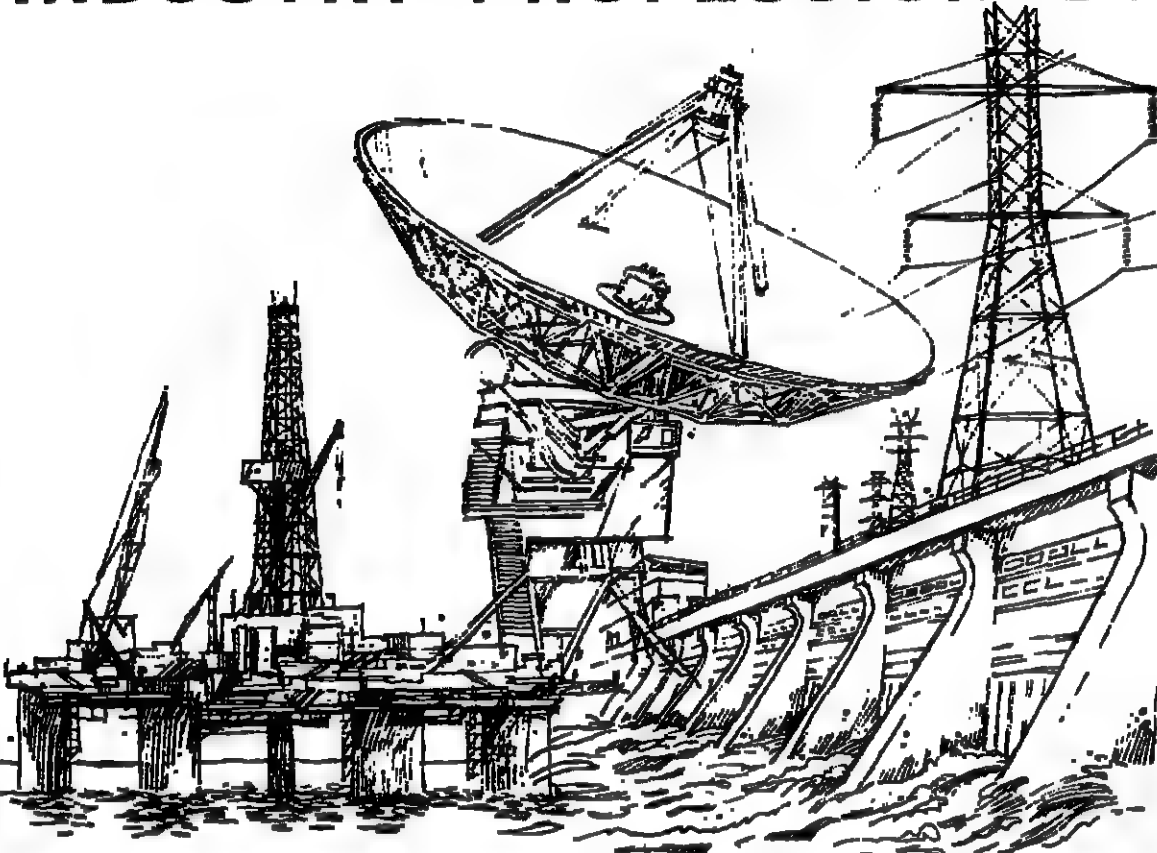
You will enter a structured training programme so that you develop both as a scientist and a manager. Those who meet the challenges will be rewarded with rapid promotion and increased responsibility.

Eventually you will reach the highest levels - giving policy advice to Ministers; managing multi-million pound budgets; even running a major research establishment.

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The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

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Part Time.
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Ex 213.

01-629 6604

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In support of this new business venture your initial team will comprise two managing consultants and a senior consultant as well as the abundant resource of this major player within the computing marketplace. Your successful acquisition of assignments will lead to an increase in the size of this group, and thus the enhancement of your position.

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£35K - £40K BASIC SALARY,
PLUS 30% BONUS

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Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 6AN.
TEL: (0832) 24414 (24 hours)
FAX: (0832) 253476
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£25,000 negotiable

A highly prestigious American law firm is seeking a new office manager in London and require an office manager with a minimum of 5 years experience. The right candidate will have a degree, a knowledge of finance, experience in office design, systems development, interpersonal skills and a solid work ethic. This position also necessitates recruitment of personnel plus a broad knowledge of administration. Prior experience in a professional environment is essential. The ideal candidate will be 30+, very well presented, highly motivated and dedicated.

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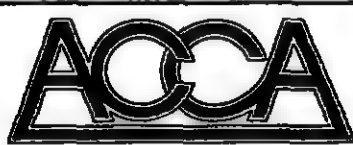
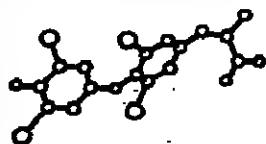
Founded in 1983, Chemical Design is the world's leading supplier of molecular modelling systems for chemical research, with customers in Europe, North America and Japan.

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The package will include an executive car with all running costs, BUPA, and relocation assistance. Salary will be negotiable consisting of basic and commission components.

If you would like to apply for this position, please write to:-

Jane Webb
Personnel Manager
Chemical Design Ltd.
Unit 12,
7 West Way,
Oxford
OX2 0JB



The Chartered Association
of Certified Accountants

EDUCATION POLICY AND TRAINING SUPPORT

The accountancy profession is growing rapidly and changing fast. The accountants role is altering throughout business and finance, with new opportunities and new challenges. To-day's is an increasingly competitive world and accountants everywhere must adapt to new pressures and expectations. As the professional body of over 108,000 members and students, in 120 countries of the world, the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants has a particular responsibility to ensure that the next generation of professional accountants has the knowledge and skills for the changing circumstances.

Three new posts will play an important part in the development and implementation of the Association's education policy and its training support service for employers.

ASSISTANT EDUCATION SECRETARY. The syllabus and scheme of examinations are key elements in the Association's development and positioning and in determining the future career patterns of its members. A major review will ensure that the examinations are relevant, progressive and responsive to external changes. We are looking for someone who can contribute to this work and to the development of our education policy generally.

EDUCATION OFFICER. This post is for someone to be responsible for statistical analyses of examinations data and assessing qualifications for entry to, or exemption from, the examinations. An interest in new methods of assessment and developments in learning support would also be helpful.

CORPORATE SERVICES ADVISER. The Association is extending its training support and staff development service for employers and trainers of its students. In addition to improving existing services, new developments will include pre-qualification practical training courses and an extended recruitment service. This post is for someone who will contribute to this work and, in particular, develop and consolidate links with employers.

All these posts require excellent communication skills; the Corporate Services Adviser will need to be willing to undertake a substantial amount of travel throughout the UK. The successful applicants, who should be non smokers, will be graduates or professionally qualified. For the education posts, we are looking for experience in vocational or professional education or in the training department of a professional firm; the corporate services post requires a marketing or training background in the professional/vocational area.

Salaries:

Assistant Education Secretary - c£18,000 Corporate Services Adviser - c£16,000 Education Officer - £9,500 - £11,000

Further details and application forms from:

The Secretary's Office
The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants
29 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3EE
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(Please indicate in which post you are interested.)

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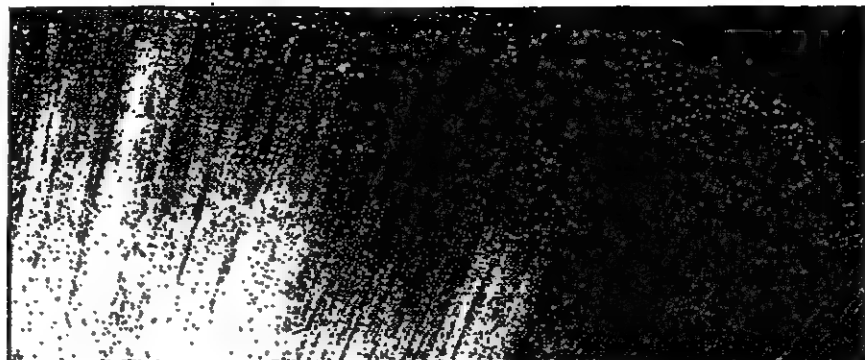
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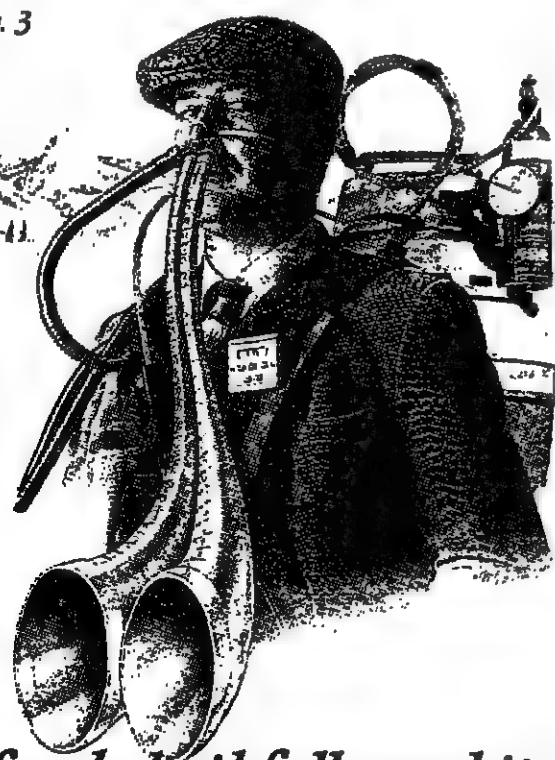
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Sales: a future in store

The Sainsbury grocery chain is investing £1 billion to develop its business over the next three years. 20 new stores will have been opened this year. To cope with the rapid expansion, it is taking on 5,000 staff, either fresh from school or armed with degrees, who can expect training which induces loyalty and puts them ahead in personal, transferable skills.

Newcomers will benefit from the £24 million Sainsbury's has allocated for training during 1988 - a hefty sum which has opened doors into academic institutions.

At the top, the Master of Business Administration (MBA) course has been termed a "real world degree" by *The Times*. The part-time course has been developed by a consortium, including the City University Business School, the Stock Exchange and American Express, as well as Sainsbury's.

A-level recruits can aim towards a new certificate in retail management through Thames Polytechnic, which should benefit future career plans. Sainsbury's has also acquired a 60-room residential training centre, Panhams Hall, at Ware, Hertfordshire. And each new store has a training room with computers and mock-up till. Clearly, staff development is good for business.

The growth means all-round recruitment as the 70,000 staff (including 2,700 at head office) are continually supplemented.

Sainsbury's has nearly 400 stores (including SavaCentres,

Sainsbury's will have opened 20 new stores by the end of the year and plans to take on 5,000 more staff. Ann Hills reports on the company's £24 million training programme

Hornsea and Shaw's outlets) and with Marks & Spencer as its nearest rival in career terms, has opportunities for specialists on all fronts, from architects to computer whizz-kids, from food technologists to buyers (some of whom travel abroad to negotiate such goods as exotic fruit).

A video aimed at graduate recruitment was being filmed at the head office, Stamford House, near Blackfriars Bridge, London, when I visited. It will help woo more than 200 third-year undergraduates who will be recruited in the coming months, some of whom will join the Christmas holidays residential insight into Food Retailing course, which Sainsbury's holds in Hertfordshire.

Peter Cox, the manpower resources manager responsible for recruitment, training and development up to senior management level, says: "Most people who give up two days of the holidays are committed."

At 35, he sparkles with success, being a long way towards his aim of "bringing together recruitment, training of employees and relations functions - the way we treat staff". His background was in electrical and electronic engineer-

ing, with a degree from City University. A few years on "I felt my preference to be more on personal skills and management with people," he said. He joined Marks & Spencer, then became head of business services at the Institute of Grocery Distribution, and joined Sainsbury's four years ago.

The MBA programme is the crown jewel on the cake, likely to expand over two years to 25 Sainsbury-sponsored students, who are allowed 25 study days a year.

The other big news is the launch of a pilot scheme for 18-year-old school-leavers, which leads to the Certificate in Retail Management, a qualification accredited to the Council for National Academic Awards. Trainees start with a salary of £7,500.

Mr Cox explained that the link with Thames Polytechnic will enable the first 100 recruits (already chosen) to count this certificate towards a degree if they wish. Accreditation takes two years to

achieve - an extra six months on top of the normal 18 months' training scheme for junior managers. Mr Cox adds: "We'd like this to develop with a national network of colleges of higher education supporting each of Sainsbury's geographical areas."

At the same time, help has been sought from academics to improve assessment procedures, which could slim wastage. About 20 per cent of graduates taken on drop out within a year.

The effect of all this can be seen at the Ladbroke Grove supermarket in London, which opened in March and has about 26,000 customers a week, each of whom carries away about 80lb of goods a visit. The store has a coffee shop and a petrol station which sells cut-price fuel.

During my visit, the manager, David Robb, had just completed a long session with the district manager, while trolleys straggled into the sales area from store-rooms and back-room staff were poring over sales statistics in the computer-lined office. A couple of trainee cashiers were having a lesson on a mock-up till, with laser scan, in the training room.

This was a typical scene in one of the new, mammoth stores, with about 350 staff, including 42 in management (average age 26).

Maria Ardizzi, a 31-year-old company recruitment manager, said: "Opening a store is like giving birth. Afterwards, there is post-natal depression when you feel physically and mentally



Pushing sales: Maria Ardizzi, a recruitment manager with Sainsbury's, and David Robb, manager of the company's new store in Ladbroke Grove, London

The next big London opening is in Camden, where a newly built store is due to open before Christmas with nearly 31,000 sq ft of sales area, parking for 367 cars, and a similar number of staff.

Caroline Gye, the site assessment manager, says: "We need to replace the old Kentish Town shop and serve potential customers from Hampstead and Camden." As long ago as 1983 a potential site was being investigated. Caroline studied the population and social statistics and examined the trading environment.

But it is not just statistics. "We walk the pavements, just getting the feel of the whole retail and social environment," she explained, mentioning her geography background, her endless research around the country, including incognito spying on the competition, her memory for places and competition, and her own team of 13 assistants, who tend to have degrees in geography and related subjects.

"We have confirmed with Ladbroke Grove how far people will travel - three or four miles - to do their shopping at the right sort of store," she notes, suggesting that a higher proportion of Camden Town shoppers will come on foot, but turnover should be similar. Caroline, 39, has been with Sainsbury's for 16 years. Now, heading a sizeable team, and with family responsibilities, she says: "My work arrangements balance with having children."



Peter Cox, manpower manager

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